Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Ashrawi: Solution Found for East Jerusalem Problem

TA3108052193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Report by Moti Amir from Washington]

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi this morning said that the agreement would be signed at the level of foreign ministers and not at the level of the Palestinian delegation. She said that the United States would be asked to issue a visa to a senior PLO official who would arrive in Washington to sign the agreement. The 11th round of peace talks in Washington is scheduled to open this afternoon. The negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians will resume this evening Washington time, with the Palestinian delegates still uncertain about which issues would be raised at the first session before the agreement between Israel and the PLO is signed. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi added that up to this very moment, contacts are being held between official representatives of the Israeli Government and the PLO in order to remove the last remaining obstacles and formulate the document of principles. 'Ashrawi said that there was a solution to the problem of East Jerusalem. As for the settlements, there was an agreement with Israel to implement a total freeze in their construction.

Dr. 'Ashrawi would not give any details about the solution that has been found to the problem of East Jerusalem. However, the PLO has apparently agreed to postpone discussion of East Jerusalem until the permanent arrangement stage. In her interview with us, Dr. 'Ashrawi pointed out that, in her view, the signing of the statement of principles between the PLO and Israel would mean that the Palestinian delegation, in its current composition, had completed its task. This, seeing as the PLO and Israel have now been maintaining direct contacts for some time. Dr. 'Ashrawi also stressed that the delegates would undoubtedly be given other posts within the context of working groups that would operate in parallel to the general framework of the negotiations between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon.

[Later on its newscast, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 31 August in a report by Arye Golan from Washington notes that "even on the eve of the 11th round of peace talks, the members of the reduced Palestinian delegation that arrived in Washington continue to talk about the settlements and Jerusalem. Israeli diplomats, seeking an explanation, this morning said that the Palestinian representatives are behaving as if they had not been updated on the agreements between Foreign Minister Peres and the PLO, or as if they could not accept the understandings that had been reached without them. They are talking as if nothing had changed, an Israeli official exclaimed in frustration. The Americans are also slightly nonplussed, and will try to clarify the matter today, even before the first meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian representatives, scheduled to begin at 2300 Israel time." The report also notes that "Israeli sources in Washington this morning estimated that the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians would be signed in a week."

Palestinian Affairs

PLO 'Dissolving,' Provisional Government Forming

NC3108112093 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, Aug 31 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation is "dissolving" and will become instead a provisional Palestinian government, a senior adviser to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Tuesday [31 August].

Bassam Abu-Sharif told AFP that this provisional government would "build the Palestinian state."

"It's to be expected," he told AFP, "because this organisation is only a bridge and not an end in itself."

He said the PLO, which has just struck an autonomy deal with Israel for the Gaza Strip and Jericho, "is dissolving."

Abu-Sharif Welcomes Israeli Approval of Agreement

TA3108065793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Report on interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, 'Arafat's political adviser, by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck; Abu-Sharif's remarks recorded in English, followed by Beck's translation and remarks]

[Text] [Beck] With the help of Solan Communications we managed to contact Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, whom we asked for an initial PLO reaction to the Israeli cabinet decision last night to approve the Oslo agreement.

[Abu-Sharif] We consider the voting of the Israeli cabinet a positive indication that will reflect itself in a very constructive way on the future relations between the PLO and the Israeli Government. And, we are hopeful that this will lead to serious steps towards the establishment of global peace in the Middle East, as well as, I hope, a step forward to deal with....

[Beck, interrupting] We also wanted to hear Bassam Abu-Sharif's comment on the possibility of mutual Israel-PLO recognition in the near future. He sounded very optimistic about this possibility, adding that he and other PLO members in Tunis feel that by Christmas Day this year, they will find themselves in Jericho. We asked him whether he was referring to 'Arafat too, and his answer was positive. Let us now hear his answer to possible mutual recognition.

[Abu-Sharif] I cannot go into detail, not authorized to go into detail, but what I know is that details of the whole proposal will be discussed and negotiated in Washington. This is one thing. Second, as far as the [Palestinian] Charter is concerned, President 'Arafat had a few years ago said publicly...

[Beck, interrupting] Abu-Sharif said that the details of the Oslo agreement are slated to be discussed in Washington. Concerning changing the Palestinian Covenant, the condition posed by Israel for mutual recognition, Abu-Sharif emphasized that several years ago PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat announced this covenant is null and void. This paves the road toward mutual recognition which is absolutely necessary, in his opinion, for effecting a change in the Middle East and in relations between Israel and the PLO.

PLO Said To Set 'Precondition' for Signing Agreement

JN3008141593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The initial agreement between the PLO and Israel on the Gaza-Jericho first option, which was approved by the United States, currently consists of broad lines, and its details will be discussed during the bilateral negotiations that will resume in Washington tomorrow, 31 August. Palestinian sources have said that the agreement includes a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho four months after the agreement is signed. It also includes the establishment of a Palestinian authority under the PLO's leadership.

Israeli military rule in the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories will also end. General elections will be held nine months after the agreement is signed. The PLO has made it a precondition, however, that it must the signatory [rather than the Palestinian delegation] to the agreement with the Israel Government, thus constituting mutual recognition.

While the Palestinians will take up duties dealing with security inside Gaza and Jericho, Israel will remain in charge of external security. The unit of currency used in Gaza and Jericho will be the Jordanian dinar, the Israeli shekel will not be used.

The issue of sovereignty over these territories is still under discussion. Jordan cut its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988. Last week, King Husayn said that this decision is a Jordanian-Palestinian issue and is not meant to benefit a third party, specifically Israel.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat telephoned King Husayn last night to brief him on developments in the Palestinian situation. An official source said that King Husayn assured 'Arafat of Jordan's support for independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

Al-Husayni Views Gaza-Jericho First Plan

TA3008171693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Aug 93 pp 1, 18

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the negotiating team, by Da'ud Kuttab at al-Husayni's home in Jerusalem "on eve of his departure for Tunis"]

[Excerpts] [Kuttab] What does the Gaza-Jericho First plan mean?

[Al-Husayni] When Israel floated the Gaza First trial balloon, it was clear that it sought to keep the ball in the Palestinian court. Gaza at this stage constitutes a security and economic burden on Israel. Gaza First means dealing with the occupied Palestinian territories as separate areas, and that there is a basic division between Gaza and the West Bank. Therefore, from this premise, one kind of a solution for Gaza while postponing any solution for the West Bank. Hence, the Palestinian response to stop this process is epitomized by accepting Gaza-Jericho and, ultimately, the realization of comprehensive Israeli withdrawal on the pattern of disengagement. This calls for a full Israeli military pullout from the Gaza Strip, Jericho, and its suburbs, the establishment of complete Palestinian authority in those areas, and the start of implementation of transitional rule in the remaining parts of the occupied territories, which would include any ideas that might be proposed, such as early empowerment.

[Kuttab] What about Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and Jericho?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that in this case there will be no need for the existence of such settlements. The settlers should be evacuated with the pullout of Israeli forces.

[Kuttab] Are you talking, then, about Palestinian sovereignty over Gaza and Jericho?

[Kuttab] Yes, we are talking about Palestinian sovereignty over Gaza and Jericho, a comprehensive withdrawal from those areas, and the establishment of a Palestinian link with Egypt, on one hand, and Jordan, on the other. Consequently, this Palestinian authority will have its open channels and doors before the Arab world.

[Kuttab] Are there no fears that Israel will interpret Security Council Resolution 242, particularly the provision on withdrawal from the territories, as having been implemented with this partial withdrawal?

[Al-Husayni] For this reason, the Palestinian position was clear in that the Gaza-Jericho plan should fall within an integral framework and a comprehensive perception of the interim stage process.

[Kuttab] Do you consider criticism of this plan by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and others, to be unjustified?

[Al-Husayni] The criticism might have stemmed from the perception that this plan is a counterproposal, namely, that it is a response to an Israeli idea whose full details have not yet been worked out. However, if an Israeli stance providing discussion of this issue is adopted, then it will be possible to formulate the Palestinian plan in a crystalized and complete form that protects Palestinian rights.

[Kuttab] Does the Palestinian delegation accept the Gaza-Jericho idea?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, there is no one who can say the delegation accepts or rejects. The delegation is part of the PLO and appointed by it as a negotiating delegation. Therefore, it has to carry out the PLO's instructions. [passage omitted]

[Kuttab] There are attempts to fish in muddy waters over the official Palestinian position on Jerusalem. What is the negotiating stance on Jerusalem in the wake of your letters and answers to the U.S. proposals?

[Al-Husayni] The position is that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied territories. What applies to those territories also applies to Jerusalem. That is, it is part of the interim stage process. As for the final stage, we are ready to discuss the fate of East and West Jerusalem in the final stage. [passage omitted]

People Urged To Rally Around PLO, Defend Agreements

TA3008140493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Aug 93 p 6

[Excerpts] Gaza—The Gaza Strip political steering committee, in its first statement issued yesterday at the office of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, called on Palestinians everywhere to rally around the PLO and defend its agreements before world public opinion so that it may prove its capability in upholding its national decisions and commitment to them. [passage omitted]

The statement stressed that while the Gaza Strip political steering committee asserts its total and unequivocal support for Yasir 'Arafat, it also stands along with him, side by side with all national institutions and forces that are in favor of peace and justice. The political steering committee affirmed the firmness of Palestinian principles and adherence to them in accordance with the PLO Charter, noting that it will not relinquish those principles one bit.

Jerusalem Paper States Support for Agreement

TA3008183993 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 30 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Agreement Is Based on the National Council Resolutions"]

[Text] The Gaza-Jericho option is currently the focus of quiet and secret discussions between the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships. There are numerous indications affirming the success of the consultations and discussions over an initial agreement whose implementation will be a prelude to a final solution based on international resolutions.

In accepting this agreement, the Palestinian leadership has relied on the resolutions of the Palestine National Council in its consecutive sessions, which approved the establishment of a state on every liberated inch of land. The Gaza-Jericho agreement is a translation of those resolutions in a broader sense. It is a conduit that one can neither move away from or close to.

The approach led by 'Arafat has began to yield results. This is a sound approach enjoying the support of the majority of the Palestinian people. Although some voices are opposing, attacking, and accusing, they are a minority moving in an oasis of democracy. Under no circumstances, however, should the majority submit to the minority's position, rather the minority must abide by the majority's decision.

We ask the opponents and opportunists: If Israel withdraws from a Palestinian region, does this mean that it is being called on to maintain its occupation? Why should this occupation not be replaced by a Palestinian authority, which would constitute a breakthrough toward achieving full withdrawal from the other parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

The Palestinian people have given their allegiance to Yasir 'Arafat so that he may continue moving for the sake of achieving a just peace and ending the occupation. They have mandated him to move in accordance with what he deems to be in the interest of the Palestinian people. The opposition remains a healthy and not worrisome phenomenon as long as the decision is that of the majority.

Palestinian Units Abroad To Police Gaza, Jericho

NC3008162993 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Amman, Aug 30 (AFP)—Thousands of exiled Palestinian fighters will move to the Gaza Strip and Jericho and form a police force if an autonomy plan goes ahead, a Palestinian official said Monday [30 August].

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that units of the PLO's Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) currently stationed in Jordan would be transferred to Jericho, and those in Yemen, Sudan and Egypt would go to Gaza, where they would be responsible for security after an Israeli pullout.

He said the exact numbers were still under negotiation.

PLO policemen trained in secret in Jordan, Egypt and Sudan will join the PLA fighters to help keep the peace, the official said.

The PLA is the military wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israel's cabinet was set Monday to approve limited autonomy in Gaza and Jericho as a first step towards Palestinian self-rule, opening the way for Israel and the Palestinians to sign a historic agreement at the Middle East peace talks which reopen in Washington on Tuesday.

Israel has stressed it will remain in charge of security outside the newly autonomous regions if the agreement goes ahead.

The Palestinian official said PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat last week attended a promotion ceremony of 800 Palestinian policemen in Amman, who had just finished a four-month training course.

PLO Responds to Jibril Death Threat Against 'Arafat

NC3008172493 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Beirut, Aug 30 (AFP)—Radical Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril threatened Monday [30 August] to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat if he accepted the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan for autonomy in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation swiftly hit back, denouncing Jibril as a mercenary.

"We remind 'Arafat of the fate of (former Egyptian president) Anwar al-Sadat and that of 'Isam Sartawi," said Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP- GC).

"If he accepts the plot for Gaza and Jericho autonomy, he will pay the price, along with his associates," Jibril said in a statement sent to AFP in the Lebanese capital.

Al-Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and was assassinated two years later, while Sartawi, a close aide to 'Arafat charged with contacting Israeli groups, was killed in 1983.

A PLO spokesman, quoted by the Palestinian news agency WAFA in Tunis, said the organisation had saved Jibril from several assassination bids from within his own group.

The PFLP-GC leader was a "mercenary...who had worked against his own people and revolution over all the stages of the Palestinian struggle," the spokesman charged.

'Arafat has given the go-ahead for Palestinian delegates to negotiate the Gaza-Jericho option with Israel at peace talks in Washington opening Tuesday. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Group Condemns Self-Rule 'Conspiracy'

JN3008181393 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1647 GMT 30 Aug 93

["Text" of statement issued by the "al-Mahdi Forces" of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command operating in "Palestine"; date not given]

[Text] O masses of our militant people in Palestine and the diaspora, O all honorable people of our Arab nation: We extend to you the greetings of the blessed and escalating intifadah, which will forge ahead toward victory, God willing, thanks to the determination of revolutionaries and men. We extend to you the greetings of fighters who are determined not to betray the blood of the martyrs, the agony of the prisoners, the suffering of the wounded, and the grief of the bereaved. We extend to you the greetings of brave bullets, as well as the greetings of those who are maintaining a vigil along the homeland's borders—the greetings of those who pledged to continue with the struggle until the liberation of land and man and until independent statehood is achieved. O our heroic people; O people of the intifadah, who have offered many martyrs: Our issue is currently experiencing a delicate and serious phase. The Zionist entity and its ally, the United States, have managed to convince a group of people affiliated with the leadership holding sway over the PLO to endorse a fragmented self-rule agreement on Gaza and Jericho, in accordance with U.S.-Zionist terms, that fails to recognize our people's legitimate rights and disavows the resolutions of international legitimacy issued by the United Nations. By so doing, this leadership has destroyed our people's interests, as well as the accomplishments the Palestinian revolution has scored throughout its contemporary history.

The resignations and membership suspensions currently taking place within Palestinian institutions, as well as the collapse of these institutions, are direct results of the tyrannical [PLO] leadership's renunciation of our people's cause. This is the role assigned this leadership—to kill our people's intifadah, concede holy Jerusalem, and ensure the success of the self-rule conspiracy. Our front has cautioned against this conspiracy, both through the writings published in the front's central magazine ILA AL-AMAM [FORWARD] and through the dialogue the front's leadership held with PLO officials on various occasions.

O our generous people: In light of this delicate phase, we urge the suspension of bilateral and multilateral negotiations. We also call for the start of a comprehensive national dialogue on various levels inside and outside the occupied territories to restore the unity of our Palestinian people, wherever they may be, and to rebuild the PLO on militant and democratic bases. This is necessary to ensure the continuation of our people's intifadah in Palestine and our revolution in all arenas. This would help our people achieve their objectives of return, self-determination, and independent statehood.

Down with the conspiracy. God is on our side. Victory will be our lot. Let us march together along the road of liberating land and man.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, the al-Mahdi Forces in Palestine

Strike in Opposition to Accord 'Partially Observed'

TA3108104693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] A commercial strike in the territories called by members of the Palestinian opposition groups was only partially observed this morning. The opposition groups said at a press conference today their members would resist the Palestinian autonomous authority in the territories. Dani Gur-Arye has details:

Most shops in East Jerusalem remained open this morning despite the strike called by opposition groups in the territories. Supporters of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have all expressed their vehement opposition to the Gaza-Jericho First plan. Riyad al-Maliki, identified with the Popular Front, said Palestinians would openly resist the autonomous Palestinian authority.

[Begin al-Maliki recording] We fought and resisted the occupation, and we will keep resisting the autonomous authority. We do not see any change between the Israeli occupation and the autonomous authority. They are two faces to the same coin. The autonomous authority will administer the Israeli authority. [as heard] So, they are changing faces, changing names, but the structures will keep the same. [as heard] They say it is Gaza first, and we say it is going to be Gaza last. [end recording]

Al-Maliki said he and many other Palestinian personalities were surprised by the news of an understanding reached between Israel and the Palestinians. This fact, al-Maliki said, reflects to what degree the decision-making in the PLO is concentrated in the hands of one man, Yasir 'Arafat. Al-Maliki refused to elaborate on the forms of resistance to the plan. Asked if the intifadah in Gaza would soon be directed at the Palestinian police force, al-Maliki raised the specter that Palestinians would now be victims of human rights abuses at the hands of other Palestinians.

PNSF Denounces Gaza-Jericho Plan, PLO Leadership

JN3008190193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Statement by the Palestinian National Salvation Front read by announcer]

[Text] News agencies and media organizations have disseminated reports on feverish political moves and activities about measures to implement autonomy on the Palestinian track, called the Jericho-Gaza First option.

These moves, which seek to liquidate the Palestinian cause and harm the Palestinian people's rights, are a humiliating overt conspiracy against all the objectives, martyrs, and struggle of the Palestinian people and their dignity and future. At the same time, these moves are a retraction and a relinquishment of the unity of the Palestinian people and land, the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and to national independence, and an abandonment of holy Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, with all the emblems of dignity and steadfastness that it represents for our people and nation. These moves also enshrine a destructive liquidatory solution and are a step that highlights all the dimensions of the conspiracy against the Palestinian people and a disavowal of our people's inalienable rights to their land.

In its statement, the PNSF [Palestinian National Salvation Front] adds: This conspiratorial agreement is being concluded on the basis that Zionist security stipulates the liquidation of the intifadah, and deals a blow to the revolution and the PLO. From this premise, it constitutes a conspiracy against the Palestinian people everywhere.

While we warn against this destructive scheme and this conspiracy, which greatly harms Palestine and its people and the militant relationship which binds the Palestinian people to their nation, we appeal to all the nationalist factions, figures, forces and the honest and militant Palestinian masses to responsibly and courageously oppose this defeatist scheme.

In light of the seriousness and gravity of the requirements of the current stage, our people no longer accept compromising stands by this or that party, not to mention the state of continued indifference, impotence, and silence. These stands, no matter how they are justified, are a cover for the conspiracy and the results that are taking place.

The PNSF ends its statement by saying: These agreements and appellations, which take place in the name of the PLO, whose leadership has become a tool in the hands of the U.S. and Zionist policy, do not represent our people, express their will, bind them, or detract from their determination to pursue the struggle to attain their national rights, primarily their right to return to their homeland. Our people are more determined than ever to pursue the liberation of their land and regain their rights in spite of all the conspiracies. Our people will remain the people of heroism and bountiful offering, and the militant vanguard for the Arab and Islamic nation. It is not fair that the militant Palestinian people are taken to account for the humiliating behavior of this leadership and these collapsing and defeatist symbols. [signed] The Palestinian National Salvation Front

Popular Organizations in Syria Denounce Plan

JN3008192293 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1653 GMT 30 Aug 93

["Text" of statement by Palestinian popular and mass organizations, federations, and trade unions in Syria on 30 August—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Go ye forth, (whether equipped) lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of God. That is best for you, if ye (but knew). [Koranic verse]

No to the self-rule conspiracy. No to settlement, transfer, and nationalization. No to dealing with the U.S. document. No to the Gaza-Jericho First proposal. Yes to all of Palestine, first and foremost.

The Palestinian national cause is experiencing the most dangerous and crucial phase of its history under a political situation in which foreign conspiracies are intensifying, and the internal corruption of the PLO's institutions is being revealed. The Palestinian popular and mass organizations, federations, and trade unions [in Syria] reiterate their absolute rejection of the course of the capitulationist negotiations—the Madrid-Washington bilateral and multilateral negotiations. This course is aimed at liquidating our national cause, the central issue of the Arab nation and the Islamic world.

We reaffirm our adherence to our inalienable national rights, which were emphasized in both the resolutions of the legitimate Palestine National Council sessions and the Palestinian National Charter. We absolutely reject the course of negotiations, beginning with Madrid and ending in the 11th round, which will begin in Washington, tomorrow, 31 August 1993, as part of this destructive renunciatory course.

By this, the leadership dominating the PLO—which fabricated the current financial crisis to peddle suspect deals designed to liquidate the Palestinian national institutions and abort the intifadah—is confirming that it has reached the end of the policy of political and organizational corruption, involving luxury and destruction, that it has adopted for last few decades. Thus, this leadership has reached its current situation. The renunciating leadership has been following this policy in order to frustrate our Palestinian people in a cheap response to joining the U.S. imperialist schemes.

Now that our cause is experiencing its most serious historic turning point—through which the future of our cause will be determined for decades to come—we appeal to our militant Palestinian people in their camps and gatherings in Syria and other areas to responsibly champion the general strike urged by the 10 Palestinian factions tomorrow, 31 August, so it will be a day of popular referendum on which we will say with one voice in both Palestine and the diaspora: No to the conspiracy, no to the liquidatory plans, no to the sellout, no to capitulation; yes to the right to repatriation, liberation, and self-determination.

Let us firmly and widely announce our rejection of the 11th round in Washington. We urge our people to unify their ranks against the capitulationist Gaza-Jericho plan. Down with the self-rule conspiracy and all capitulationist plans that call for the liquidation of the Palestine question.

Let the Palestinian negotiating team withdraw from this course immediately as a precursor to a comprehensive national dialogue designed to unify the Palestinian ranks and safeguard the national cause. Confront the leadership dominating the PLO and its devastating political policy. Call for punishing this leadership on the popular level in the interest of the Palestinian national cause.

We appeal to the nationalists in the [PLO] Executive Committee to take a clear and decisive position that rejects both the negotiations and the attempts to liquidate our national cause. Let us be united in escalating the armed struggle in order to confront the conspiracy, support and promote the intifadah, and topple the liquidatory plans.

Glory to the blessed intifadah, which is approaching its seventh year. Salutations to the brother deportees in Marj al-Zuhur. Glory to the steadfast masses of the resistance. Salutations to the national and Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon. Salutations to the heroes of the armed Palestinian revolution. Disgrace and ignominy to the capitulationists and to those who sell out and trade in our national cause.

[Signed] The Palestinian popular and mass organizations, federations, and trade unions in Syria.

Islamic Jihad Leader Criticizes Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC3108070893 Baalbek Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine Organization, by an unidentified correspondent, place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] God's peace be with you.

[Al-Shiqaqi] God's peace and blessings be with you.

[Correspondent] Our first question concerns the negotiations and your view of the quickening developments in the negotiations, especially in the Palestinian arena.

[Al-Shiqaqi] First, the negotiations in Washington between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations were always [words indistinct], whether in Europe, the United States, or even inside occupied Palestine itself, between the Israelis and PLO members. Today, we are seeing the result of these secret meetings held on the sidelines for months. There is a dangerous and catastrophic change

on this track, namely the PLO leadership's acceptance of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho in return for delaying the implementation of this same autonomy in the remaining parts of the West Bank, in return for forgetting the Jerusalem issue, and in return for the continuing Zionist settlement. These Palestinian principles were distorted today.

We know the Gaza Strip was made hell for the Israelis. Today, they have a historic opportunity given to them by the PLO leadership to withdraw peacefully from the Gaza Strip, mind you, not a full withdrawal, because the Strip will always remain at their mercy strategically and in terms of security. Events are a grave liquidation of the Palestinian issue in return for consigning the PLO leadership to a fraction of territory from where it will undertake to liquidate the intifadah and liquidate or attempt to strike the struggling forces that ignited this intifadah, maintained its impetus, and made the Strip pure hell for the Israelis, forcing them to think repeatedly of leaving the Strip.

[Correspondent] Dr. al-Shiqaqi, according to you there is a catastrophe. How can it be confronted?

[Al-Shiqaqi] It was preceded by long preparations. There were attempts to make the Palestinian people despair and lose hope. It was overstated that all the Arabs would sign and we would be left alone, isolated, possessing nothing, and that everyone would cut off their aid to us, so we must accept anything, whatever it is. This political and financial crisis is fabricated. The Arab countries can resume the aid immediately, because this is a U.S. decision.

The PLO is not bankrupt. It has potential greater than many countries. It is not incapable of resolving the financial problems the Palestinians face inside and outside the occupied territories. Regrettably, its funds are being held now to entrench the defeated and splintered parties and forces when they come to the Gaza Strip. These funds are being held to oppress the Palestinian people and their muslihd vanguards in the future. But, [words indistinct] there are attempts [words indistinct], which used to take place. I believe that the duty of the loyal mujahidin is to step up their strikes against the Zionist enemy, be wise, and join ranks to thwart this catastrophic plan.

[Correspondent] Dr. Fathi, as Islamists, what are you doing? And can the plan proceed along the lines of the American and Zionist schemes?

[Al-Shiqaqi] I believe it is our duty to proceed along the course we have drawn up for ourselves—our resulting Islamic line, our mujahid Islamic line. Today, we see the enemy stepping up its security procedures and measures out of its fear of Islamic activities to thwart this plan. Our duty is to confront this scheme with every means at our disposal, military and political alike. We tell the Zionist enemy and the defeated and feeble rulers that even if they sign this shameful agreement today, tomorrow, or any time in the future, there will never be peace. This small homeland is not big enough for both of us. The battle will continue until the land's true owners win.

[Correspondent] Dr. Fathi, there is a wager that the revolutionary intifadah will stop. Can it stop and how do you see the stance?

[Al-Shiqaqi] They believe that with a superficial Israeli Army withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, not strategic withdrawal, the intifadah will stop. They believe that bringing in 3,000 police, security men, or armed men from outside Palestine under the PLO leadership will be enough to crush an intifadah that has been going on for six years. But we believe the arena of struggle is open. Let us see if these people, who did not [words indistinct] the intifadah, can issue an order for it to stop. I believe they cannot do that. We will keep using every possible means to continue the battle with the Zionist enemy.

[Correspondent] Dr. Fathi, there are fears the battle will be transformed into a battle between the intifadah and what is called the Palestinian police, that is, after the police are deployed on the ground.

[Al-Shiqaqi] We will try our best not to have any inter-Palestinian conflict, regardless of the circumstances and under any banner. Our confrontations will continue to be with the occupation itself, wherever it is on Palestine, not only in the Gaza Strip.

[Correspondent] Dr. Fathi, there is talk of coordination between the al-Jihad movement and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Is the talk true?

[Al-Shiqaqi] I believe that inside occupied Palestine, we now need to reach the highest levels of understanding, cooperation, and coordination. I believe that inside occupied Palestine, such meetings are taking place.

Envoy to Baghdad: Iraq Aids PLO Despite Blockade

EN300817'93 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, the state of Palestine ambassador to Baghdad, has said that fraternal Iraq continues to provide aid to the PLO, which is facing a suffocating financial crisis, despite the international blockade that has been imposed on it for three years.

In a statement to AFP 'Azzam al-Ahmad said fraternal Iraq continues to offer us financial aid that helps us maintain the Palestinian institutions and the Palestine Liberation Army units deployed in Iraq.

Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad added: The Iraqi Government offers scholarships to Palestinian students from inside and outside the occupied territories. It also deducts a "liberation tax" from the wages of Palestinians working in Iraq, and this tax goes to the PLO.

'Arafat Cables Iraq's Saddam on Prophet's Birthday

JN3008195393 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Brother Leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, on the anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. The text follows:

Brother President Saddam Husayn, greetings: As we celebrate the birthday of our Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him, it pleases me to send to your excellency and, through you, to your esteemed government and fraternal people, on behalf of our Palestinian people, my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and on my own behalf, the warmest expressions of [words indistinct] on this blessed occasion. It is an occasion that is replete with meanings [words indistinct] from which we seek inspiration to work together [words indistinct] to overcome the existing differences within our nation's ranks by transcending pains and wounds and restoring cohesion, closing ranks, and achieving solidarity to give priority to our nation's higher interest. In this way the nation can confront current and future challenges, becoming stronger and more able to uphold its word, enhancing its status among nations, and playing the role that suits it in defining and planning what is taking place in our region and the entire world in terms of the events and developments that affect it.

Reviving solidarity and reinforcing joint action within our nation's ranks constitutes the greatest victory for our Palestinian people. A people who, at this crucial stage, need, more than ever, the support of our peoples, governments, and countries so that they can continue their steadfastness and blessed intifadah until they achieve victory by ending the Israeli occupation of their territories and holy shrines and regain and exercise their inalienable national rights, the foremost of which are their rights to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

I seize this blessed opportunity to express to your excellency my pride [word indistinct] in the firm brotherly relations that bind us to you, your people, and your fraternal country. We stress to you our true determination to continue developing and reinforcing these relations in order to serve our peoples' common interests and our nation's noble goals.

I extend to you my warmest congratulations and wish you health and happiness and your fraternal people continued progress and prosperity.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you. Together until we reach liberated Jerusalem, with God almighty's help.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and head of the PLO Executive Committee

PLO To Sue UK for Money, Gold Seized From Palestine

JN3008091393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Aug 93 p 20

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Sources close to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat have stressed that, when it assumes responsibility in Gaza and Jericho, the PLO will take its first case before British judiciary. These sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the PLO will sue the British Government and that it will ask London to return the money and gold seized by the British colonial government in Palestine.

The Palestinian sources did not divulge the details of this case, but affirmed that this will be the PLO's first case.

Egypt

'Arafat Visits Cairo for Meetings With Musa, Mubarak

Arrives 30 Aug

NC3108053093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Sanaa this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. 'Arafat's visit comes within the framework of continuing consultation between Egyptian and Palestinian officials on the latest developments in the Middle East and the regional peace process. 'Arafat was received upon arrival by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

'Arafat, Musa Comment After Meeting

NC3108073393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting last night with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in which Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, took part.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative and alternate ambassador in Cairo.

In a statement afterward, 'Arafat said the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on principles involves the immediate full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Asked about reports of Palestinian concessions to Israel to reach the agreement on principles, 'Arafat said this was a distortion and an attempt to belittle the historic achievement.

'Arafat said he will discuss several issues, including developments in the Palestinian issue, during his meeting with President Mubarak today.

Asked about Syria and Jordan's disapproval [of the Gaza-Jericho plan], 'Arafat said this was not true. He noted his contacts the day before yesterday with King Husayn of Jordan. The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committees are holding regular meetings and I have no worries about relations and coordination between the Palestinians and Jordanians, 'Arafat said.

Commenting on the PLO's financial crisis, 'Arafat said: For 40 months, the PLO has received no money transfers. The PLO's funds are detained in some Arab states. Even Palestinians' donations and the PLO's approved percentage have not been transferred to us.

Asked whether the PLO has accepted the declaration of principles because of its financial crisis, he said: The American side has offered $590 million in return for accepting the "early empowerment" plan. This amount would have been allocated from the IMF surplus, from America, Europe, Japan, and the Gulf states. We rejected that amount, because nobody sells a speck of his homeland's soil—no matter how high the price.

Touching on mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, 'Arafat said: Let us wait until we hear their final declaration in this connection.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said 'Arafat assessed the situation during their meeting last night.

Commenting on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho as a first stage, Musa said: We must wait; we cannot judge until the various aspects are concluded.

Mubarak Phones al-Asad During Meeting

NC3108090993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 31 Aug (MENA)—During his meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this morning, President Husni Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Mubarak and al-Asad exchanged views on recent developments in the peace process, including the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the positions taken by all the parties on it.

Mubarak: Gaza-Jericho 'Good Start'

NC3108103093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 31 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed the view that the Gaza-Jericho project is a good start that we should support, because it is the starting point toward reaching a final peaceful solution to the Palestinian cause that has persisted for over 40 years. If we expect to start a solution process and grab everything at once, this would be a very difficult process, he said.

Mubarak made his remarks at the beginning of a news conference with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat after their two hours of talks in Alexandria this morning.

The president added: Even with that announcement—the Gaza-Jericho plan—the issue will not be easy. It is a tiring process and all the powers should back the issue until we can obtain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

At the beginning of the news conference, President Mubarak welcomed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, describing his visit to Egypt as something natural. It is known that we support the Arab cause and rights, Mubarak said.

Musa on Joining African Preferential Trade Agreement

NC2908130293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 29 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed appreciation for and satisfaction with the outcome of his recent tour of six African countries.

He told journalists after his meeting with President Mubarak today that he presented to the president a report on his African tour, the discussions he held in the capitals he visited—especially current peace efforts in South Africa—and what African leaders and officials wanted from President Mubarak in his capacity as the OAU chairman.

Musa added: I also reported to the president on the results of the Beirut meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries directly involved in the peace process—the cordon states—especially concerning the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington Tuesday.

Musa said Egypt will largely benefit from joining the East Africa Trade Preferential Agreement. He explained that Egyptian trade with the countries of the agreement amounts to $150 million and that Egypt's membership will raise the amount to $1 billion.

Musa said Egypt can contribute a great deal and benefit from trade with the states of the agreement. Egypt will find markets for its products and the big Egyptian market—60 million people—will absorb part of the sales and products of those countries.

He said that under the Abuja Treaty, Africa agreed to launch the common African market. Egypt cannot stay away from this market; it must be an effective part of it, he said. The way toward launching the market, he added, is to establish a number of temporary groups in north, east, south, west, and central Africa. He said Egypt asked to join the agreement on east Africa. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister on World Companies' Competition, Natural Gas

NC3008140393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1234 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Abu Madi, Al-Daqahliyah, 30 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has announced that there is strong competition among international oil companies to drill for oil and natural gas in the Delta and Mediterranean areas in Egypt. He said five international Italian, U.S., Spanish, French, and British companies are trying to implement nine agreements in these areas. [passage omitted]

He added that the new expansion works in northern Abu Madi include boosting production in the Nile Delta fields to 540 million cubic feet of natural gas, 460 tons of butane gas, and 9,000 barrels of oil derivatives per day. The gas production in these fields, he said, represents 54 percent of Egypt's gas production. [passage omitted]

Columnist Questions Goals of U.S. 'Instrument' IMF

NC2708114793 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 18 Aug 93 p 12

[Amin Huwaydi's "Contemplations" column: "The Bitter Harvest"]

[Text] The IMF is an instrument available to the United States as it exercises the policy of domination in our disturbed world. The IMF has slowly "dragged Egypt" into a trap more difficult than that in the days of Khedive Isma'il [who, following a financial crisis, was forced by Britain and France to abdicate in favor of his son in 1879. Isma'il died in exile in Constantinople in 1895]!!

The IMF kept pushing until it forced the government to sell off the public sector, the nickname for the process was "privatization." When the government started "the game," the IMF expressed dissatisfaction with the speed with which "the match" was played—the selling of 20 companies per year—and demanded that more companies be offered for sale to any buyer without discriminating between Arab and foreign bidders. Unemployment jumped and bids were much lower than the real value of the companies offered for sale.

The IMF demanded the imposition of taxes on bank deposit dividends. Although the government has repeatedly affirmed that deposit dividends are exempt from different types of taxation, the IMF insists on its demand. It put pressure on the government to raise the price of electricity and petroleum in spite of the difficult crisis the Egyptians are in as they try in vain to balance their limited income with their growing expenses.

The IMF also demands that the second phase of the sales tax be introduced, in spite of the negative impact of the first phase, in which sales dropped, stocks accumulated in warehouses, and recession prevailed. On top of all that, the IMF demands that foreign trade be liberated. It wants to open the door to unfair competition; domestic products cannot compete with foreign imports. We experienced a similar problem when Britain signed an agreement with the Ottoman Empire in 1838, liberating trade and introducing an open-door economic policy. Then, national industry, particularly weaving, collapsed.

As if all this were not enough, the government rushed to adopt the Middle East common market project, with Egypt and Israel as its nucleus. The two sides concluded

over 100 agreements, most of which are being implemented without publication. I don't think we have a choice in that issue, especially in view of the pressures burdening Egyptian decisionmaking.

But, all this is not important, brother citizens. I should not bother you with it. More important is for you to hurry and voice allegiance to the president so that he can rule us for a third term, because not enough has been done in two terms!

Imam Urges 'Diagnosis, Treatment' of Extremism

NC2908075093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0420 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Interview with Grand Imam of al-Azhar Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq by Muhammad Zayd "on the sidelines of the Conference on Islam's Cultural Contribution" in Alexandria, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zayd] Grand Imam, as you chair this conference under the auspices of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, there is no doubt that a small minority has broken away from the tolerant tradition of Islam. To start with, and on this blessed occasion, could you tell us how to combat this un-Islamic extremism?

[Jad-al-Haqq] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The presence of misguided people does not disturb us. This is a normal matter that happens in every time and place. The issue, however, is how to send our message to these people. As a doctor, we have to diagnose the illness and then treat it. Treatment of an absent patient...[Jad-al-Haqq pauses] Unless we know the ideas of those people, their source and content, we will not be able to make a correct diagnosis. The primary task is to familiarize ourselves with any aberrant or extremist thought and then confront it in a scientific way with facts. I do not think that this has happened yet. No one has tried to do it yet. The matter, therefore, is one of treatment. We have to determine the illness in order to be able to prescribe the medicine.

[Zayd] What is the solution, Grand Imam?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Diagnosis comes first. We should take a look at the existing ideas to determine if this is a craze or if these ideas have previous roots.

[Zayd] Grand Imam, through this conference, how can we restore the civilized face of Islam? As you may know, some people have begun to get the wrong idea about Islam.

[Jad-al-Haqq] This is our task as an Islamic world and Islamic thinkers. We have to confront these ideas that are published or circulated. As a matter of fact, the presence of an anti-Islam and anti-Islamic wave is undeniable. We should take comfort in the fact that the Egyptian people are Muslims and are generally well-informed about of their religion. What we are facing now is an imported thought that has taken hold of some minds and tempted them to engage in misguided acts.

Critical of Published 'Vituperations'

NC2908163993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Al-Azhar Rector Grand Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq has emphasized that writers should stick to the principles of honesty, purity, and truthfulness and to observe their duties toward God in what they write.

In a statement he issued today on the occasion marking Prophet Muhammad's birthday, the grand imam regretted that certain writers assail God's law, seek to distract Muslims from their religion and its rulings, and make fun of God's rulings as they present their concepts. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq pointed out that the discord and the stray thoughts that got the better of some of our young people is due to the fact that these vituperations that ridicule Muslims and their religion and laws, cast doubts on their beliefs, and defame the nation's sanctities are published freely in the newspapers that the people read everyday.

Ismailia Bombs Set To Explode on Trains' Arrival

NC2908113293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1110 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Official military sources in Cairo have announced that Army sappers last night defused three time bombs half an hour before they were set to explode. The bombs had been concealed on a pedestrian bridge near the Ismailia railway terminal. The sources said that the bombs, weighing 7.5 kg between them, were inside plastic bags and timed to go off when three scheduled trains arrived from Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Said.

Security Source Denies Bomb Report

NC2908092393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0906 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—A high-level security source has denied a report carried by a foreign news agency this morning to the effect that police defused three time bombs at a railway terminal in Ismailia today. The source told MENA that the report is groundless and a typical example of unscrupulous news reporting.

Libya

Mi'itiga Military Airbase To Become Civilian Airport

LD3008213293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The General Civil Aviation and Meteorological Corps in the Great Jamahiriyah announced that Mi'itiga

airport [formerly Wheelus military air base] has been confirmed as a civilian airport. It will be utilized as such beginning September 1993.

The corps has informed the local airlines that this [decision] has been announced locally and internationally, and that the exploitation of this airport will be used in the same manner as the rest of the Great Jamahiriyah's airports, in accordance with the applicable regulations and laws in the sphere of civil aviation.

General People's Congress To Convene 1 Sep

LD3008184693 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Congress has issued Decision 29 for 1993, inviting the General People's Congress to convene. The following is its text:

After examining the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses to amalgamate the congresses, the General People's Congress is invited to convene in its new formation on 1 September at 1000 in the city of Tripoli.

Secretariat of the General People's Congress

30 August 1993

New Daily To Be Issued on Revolution Anniversary

NC2908174793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text) Tripoli, 29 Aug (MENA)—A new daily entitled AL-SHAMS will be issued on Wednesday, 1 September, on the day marking the 24th anniversary of the Libyan revolution. The political, social, and economic newspaper is supervised by the Public Press Institution and a number of Libyan and Arab writers and authors will contribute their writings. A well-known writer specializing in popular action, 'Isa 'Ashur, will be the paper's chief editor.

A responsible source has told MENA that the daily will issue Arab and international editions, including one that will be issued in Cairo. A specialized weekly supplement dealing with political, literary, artistic, scientific, and sports topics will also be issued.

Two dailies, AL-FAJR AL-JADID and AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, are currently issued in Libya. The third daily, AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR, has become a weekly. AL-FAJR AL-JADID is published by the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, JANA, while the other two are issued by the state-run Public Press Institution.

Joint Turkish-Libyan Commission Minutes Signed

LD2908191593 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Ankara, Hanibal [August] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The minutes of the 17th session of the Libyan Arab-Turkish Joint Committee were signed on Friday [27 August] at the end of the meetings which started last Wednesday.

The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Education, Youths, Scientific Research and Vocational Training and on the Turkish side by the Anuar Kubrachi [name as received], the minister for housing and utilities.

The minutes provides for economic, cultural and technical cooperation, trade exchange and developing these relations bringing them to new levels and perspectives for cooperation in all fields.

The meetings started on Wednesday in the presence of the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Education, Youths, Scientific Research and Vocational Training and the Turkish minister for housing and utilities during which the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the existing relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Turkey.

The two sides asserted the importance of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Egyptian Official Arrives for al-Fatih Celebration

LD3008185793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mohammed Tolba Awidha [name as received], the president of the Committee for Arab Relations to the Arab Republic of Egypt, to attend the massive festivities marking the 24th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution. [sentence as received]

In a statement to JANA's correspondent, Mohammed Tolba Awidha expressed his pleasure at visiting the great Jamahiriyah to take part in the festivities of the 24th anniversary of the great al Fatih revolution. He stressed the deep and excellent relations linking the Arab people of the great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Malian Foreign Minister Attends Cooperation Talks

Arrives in Tripoli 27 Aug

LD2708185893 Tripoli JANA in English 1843 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 27, Jamahiriyah News Agency— Mohamed Alhousseini Toure, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in the Republic of Mali

arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah to attend the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Malian Joint Committee.

Delivers Message to al-Qadhdhafi

LD2808135193 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received brother Mohamed Alhousseini Toure, the minister of foreign affairs, African consultation, and international cooperation in Mali as the personal envoy of Republic of Mali President Oumar Konare. The envoy delivered to the brother leader of the revolution a written message in which he affirmed his country's solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the unfair sanctions imposed on it according to the unlawful Resolution 748. It also contained his and the Malian people's congratulations to the Arab Libyan people on the 24th anniversary of the Great Fatih revolution.

The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and the ambassador of Mali to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Commends Libyan Support

LD2808145293 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal 28 [28 Aug], JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Malian minister for external affairs, African complementarity and international cooperation, Mohammed al-Husseini, asserted the depth of relations between the Great Jamahiryah and Mali.

In a statement to JANA's correspondent, the Malian minister lauded the efforts being exerted by the leader of the revolution towards the settlement of differences between Malians in conformity with the important role being undertaken by the Great Jamahiryah in settling the African disputes within an African framework.

The minister commended the support and backing provided by the Great Jamahiryah towards the consolidation of stability and security in Mali.

The minister reiterated his country's support for and solidarity with the Great Jamahiryah in countering the arbitrary coercive measures due to the invalid Resolution 748. He called for the lifting of tte coercive measures and the settlement of the crisis between the Great Jamahiryah and the Western countries through dialogue and in accordance with international laws and conventions.

He declared "the Malian people will never forget the efforts of the Great Jamahiryah in relieving the pain of the Malian people and the hosting of hundreds of injured Malians for medical treatment, a humane stance which I will never forget for the Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Malian people will always remember this stance. [no end quotes, as received]

The minister pointed out that his country, like other African neighbouring countries, was directly affected by the coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiryah.

Economic, Cultural Agreement Signed

LD3008162993 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The Libyan Arab-Malian Joint Commission this morning ended its fifth session in Tripoli by signing the minutes of the meeting of this session. An agreement on economic cooperation and an agreement on incentives and re-insurance were also signed. The minutes of the meeting, and the two cooperation agreements were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and brother Mohamed Alhousseini Toure, foreign affairs minister, for Malians abroad and African integration in the Republic of Mali. [passage omitted]

The minutes of the meeting and the agreements signed, stipulate the bolstering of economic relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Mali, so as to realize the development of trade exchange and freedom of investment for individuals and companies in the agricultural, industrial, and services sectors. The minutes stipulated too, the strengthening of cultural relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Mali which are based on the make-up of the African and Islamic personality, and to push the relations of cooperation forward in the spheres of education and the development of human resources and vocational training.

At the end of the visit of brother Mohamed Alhousseini, the Malian foreign affairs minister, for Malians abroad, and African integration in the Republic of Mali to the Great Jamahiriyah, a press statement was issued that said: Brother Mohamed Alhousseini Toure, foreign affairs minister, for Malians abroad and African integration in the fraternal Republic of Mali, and the leader of the Malian side in the Libyan Arab-Malian Joint Commission, paid a visit to the Great Socialist People Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah during the period 09-11 of Rabi' al-Awwal 1403 after the death of the Prophet, corresponding to 27-29 of the month of Hanibal, August, 1993. During the said period the Joint Commission for Cooperation held its fifth session in Tripoli, in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The brother leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution received brother Mohamed Alhousseini Toure, foreign affairs minister, for Malians abroad and African integration, and the personal envoy of President Alpha Oumar Konare, during which he conveyed a letter from the Malian president to his brother the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution. He expressed the solidarity of the Malian people and its government with the Libyan Arab people, and called on the UN Security Council to lift the blockade imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah as soon as possible, so that the Libyan Arab people can complete its development plans. He expressed his pride in the role of the brother leader and his positive contributions in

consolidating stability and security in the states of the region. He expressed his congratulations to the brother leader and the Libyan Arab people on the 24th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

The brother secretary of foreign affairs in the General People's Congress and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation received the visiting minister. The minutes of the meeting of the fifth session of the Joint Commission included the following issues: The consolidation of economic relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Mali so as to realize the development of trade exchange and freedom of investment for individuals and companies in the agricultural, industrial, and services sectors, and to provide the necessary facilities for joint ventures in the agricultural and industrial sectors on the basis of the integration of self- capabilities between the two countries. Within this framework, an agreement on economic cooperation, and an agreement on incentives and re-insurance were signed.

To bolster cultural relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Mali which are based on the make-up of the Islamic- African personality, a cultural agreement was signed, and the importance was stressed regarding the importance of bolstering relations in the cultural and educational sectors, as well as the development of human resources and cooperation in the sphere of vocational training.

The Joint Commission for Cooperation also dealt with the joint contribution by the Great Jamahiriyah to the social and economic development in the Republic of Mali according to its available capabilities. The foreign affairs minister, for Malians abroad, and African integration praised the cultural achievements realized by the Libyan Arab people in all spheres.

The significance of collective cooperation between African states to bolster relations between south-south states, as well as the bolstering the role of the OAU, was also stressed. Within this framework, the two sides agreed to activate the group of states bordering the Sahara to be a collective framework for cooperation between states, so as to realize the economic and development integration and cooperation in the service of their peoples. They emphasized the importance of bolstering relations between this group with the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] member countries, and agreed to intensify contacts in order to strengthen consultations between the group member states, and to call for an urgent meeting to confront the movement of desert locusts. [passage omitted]

Departs Tripoli 30 Aug

LD3008184993 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mohamed Alhousseini Toure, the Malian minister for external relations, Malian abroad and African complementarity, this afternoon left the Great Jamahiriyah after taking part in the meetings of the 5th session of the Libyan Arab-Malian Joint Committee which concluded its proceedings in Tripoli today.

Morocco

Bahraini Delegation Arrives for Mosque Dedication

LD2708144393 Rabat MAP in English 1255 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 27 (MAP)—A Bahraini delegation led by Secretary General of Justice Ministry Abderrahman Bin-Muhammed Rachid al Khalifah arrived Thursday in Casablanca to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Hassan II grand mosque at the end of this month.

In an arrival statement, the Bahraini official expressed delight at his arrival in the Kingdom to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Hassan II mosque which is unique of its kind in the Islamic world. He also highlighted the sound ties existing between Morocco and Bahrain.

Gambian Culture, Youth and Sports Minister Boubacar Baldeh also arrived the same day to represent President Sir Dawda Jawara in the mosque's inauguration ceremonies.

Several heads of state, government, cabinet members and senior personalities from various Islamic countries will be present in the mosque's dedication ceremonies to be widely covered by national and international media.

Iraqi Delegation Arrives

JN3008105693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Rabat, 30 Aug (INA)—Dr. Humam 'Abd-al Khaliq, [Iraq's] minister of higher education and scientific research, arrived in Casablanca last night heading a delegation of religious men from Iraq to participate in the inauguration of the Hassan II mosque in the city. [passage omitted]

Sudan

'Common Strategy' With Iran Against West Urged

LD3008182793 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 30, IRNA—A senior Sudanese official today called for expansion of Tehran-Khartoum relations on the basis of Islamic principles. Mustafa Osman [name as received], secretary-general of Sudan's Universal Friendship Association, also expressed hope that relations between Iran and Sudan would further promote despite the growing concern of enemies of Islam, the U.S. in particular.

Both Iran and Sudan should adopt a common strategy in their confrontation with Western powers, Osman told IRNA. He said the West, especially the U.S. has taken a hostile attitude towards Iran and Sudan and is trying to undermine the true followers of Islam.

On Washington's policy vis-a-vis the world of Islam, Osman said the U.S. was bent on destroying each and every Muslim country. First Iran was the target of Washington's hostility and then Sudan and it may be Afghanistan's turn tomorrow, he pointed out.

On Sudan's reaction to Washington's placing of Sudan on its list of countries allegedly supporting terrorism, Osman said Khartoum's policy was to disgrace the U.S. and prove false its accusation.

SPLA Launches Counteroffensive Against Government

AB2908144093 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By Epajjar Ojullu]

[Text] Kerwa, Sudan, Aug 29 (AFP)—The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has launched a counteroffensive against Sudanese Government forces and has halted their southern advance, rebel sources announced here on Sunday.

The SPLA claim that an advance by government forces towards rebel positions in the now-deserted town of Kaya had been halted has been confirmed by relief agencies helping refugees fleeing the fighting. "We have not heard of any fighting in the past 10 or so days," Jasmin Krischer, a doctor in the Dutch branch of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without borders) said.

Refugees fleeing the fighting also said that for one week now the Sudanese Air Force's high-flying Antonov bomber planes had stopped aerial raids on rebel positions near the Sudan-Uganda border.

About 60,000 refugees have crossed into northern Ugandan district of Koboko, while 47,000 more are displaced inside Sudan around the border. Unconfirmed reports said that the population was herded into this remote village which lies about 160 kilometres (100 miles) from the regional capital Juba by a contingent of SPLA fighters that instructed the population not to seek refuge in Uganda.

Rebel sources told AFP that John Garang's faction of the SPLA had resisted the capture of Kaya with a heavy deployment of troops there, and an official of one of the aid agencies said rebel forces were now advancing towards Morobo, a village 54 kilometres (35 miles) north of Kaya captured by government forces three weeks ago.

The 47,000 displaced inside Sudan have not sought refuge in Uganda, despite pathetic conditions they live in. Virtually the whole population lives under trees in the plush tropical vegetation.

Hundreds of men could be seen constructing huts, which are badly needed at this time when rains fall almost everyday. "Only God knows how we manage to keep alive. It rains on us every day," 60- year-old Kosima Obior, whose 12-year-old daughter lay under a tree suffering from malaria, told AFP. Asked why he did not wish to seek refuge across in Uganda, he said: "We have been told to stay here," refusing to answer any more questions.

An official of John Garang's SPLA humanitarian wing, Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA), Phillip Chol, denied that the population was being kept against its will by the SPLA.

"You can see there are no SPLA fighters holding anyone hostage here," he told AFP in reaction to earlier reports that heavily armed SPLA forces were holding hostage thousands of displaced people by using them as a human shield against bombardment of Sudanese Government forces.

But relief agencies and UN officials said they believed the SPLA leadership had refused to allow the population to cross into Uganda. "Take it from me that the population has been directly or indirectly refused to cross into Uganda by the SPLA," an official told AFP.

The SRRA official maintained that the population had lived together in three camps east of the Nile and considered themselves as one family. "We consider ourselves as one family. To move or not to move can only be a collective decision," he said, explaining that the experience they had in Ethiopia had taught them not to be keen about seeking refuge outside Sudan.

Thousands of Sudanese refugees faced hostility when Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime collapsed in neighbouring Ethiopia.

Relief officials pointed out, however, that Dinka people could be reluctant to join other tribes, notably the Kokus, now in refugee camps in Koboko, 54 kilometres (36 miles) northeast of the regional capital, Arua, because of ethnic animosity between the two tribes.

Some refugees in Koboko told AFP that the Garang's Dinkas had looted their property in Kaya and had also raped their women, a claim since confirmed by relief officials who have said that SPLA's Dinka-dominated troops had committed atrocities in areas around Kaya.

The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and relief agencies are worried that thousands of the displaced people in Kerwa could die from disease bacause of the overcrowding and shortage of food and medical services. "We cannot assist you unless you cross into Uganda and declare yourselves refugees," frustrated UNHCR representative in Uganda Ahmed Farah told a crowd of the displaced population that had gathered at Kerwa school, where classes are normally conducted under mango trees.

Earlier reports that the 47,000 people were inside Ugandan territory have been dismissed by Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Kirunda Kivejjinja. In a statement released this weekend, Kivejinja said that displaced population was in Sudanese territory and also denied that Sudanese fighter planes had bombed Ugandan territory.

Air Force Halts Bombing Raids

AB3008144193 Paris AFP in English 1004 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By Epajjar Ojullu]

[Text] Arua, Uganda, Aug 30 (AFP)—Sudanese Air force high- flying Antonov bombers that drove over 100,000 people from southern Sudanese border towns have stopped bombing raids amid indications that the tide of war has changed, sources said here Monday.

Heavy fighting started on August 5 when the government launched an offensive against John Garang's faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which launched its own counteroffensive last week.

Over 47,000 people who have crammed into the little village of Kerwa, 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of the southern Sudanese regional capital, Juba, have confirmed that the spectre of a bloody offensive by government forces seems to have died down.

Workers of UN agencies and relief organisations said that the SPLA, despite its split into several factions, still possessed immmense military firepower. "This is a war that no one will win in the battlefield," said one relief worker.

"John Garang's Dinka-dominated SPLA are a highly mobilised force that cannot easily be defeated," an official with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) of Holland told AFP.

The SPLA's control of many areas of the south has led to strong feeling against the Muslim Khartoum government.

Garang wields immense support amongst the Dinkas, southern Sudan's most populous tribe, some of whom think that the split within the SPLA was only temporary. "I think it will not be long before the SPLA is one again," Philip Chol of the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA), the humanitarian wing of the rebel movement, told AFP. [AFP here promises "more," but as of filing time nothing further has been carried]

Kuwait

Armed Attack on U.S. Military Compound Reported

NC3108113893 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Aug 31 (AFP)—Gunmen raked a U.S. military compound with machine gun fire as soldiers slept, in the first such attack since a U.S.-led coalition liberated Kuwait in 1991, the Kuwaiti press reported Tuesday [31 August].

The assailants sparked fires and broke windows but caused no casualties when they attacked the building southeast of Kuwait City at dawn Monday, newspapers said. Photographs showed walls riddled with bullets and other damage.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior and the U.S. Embassy refused to comment on the incident.

Walt Clark, a U.S. soldier living in the building, told AL-ANBA' newspaper that he had seen a bearded man in a car opposite the building who disappeared after the attack.

Some 200 U.S. soldiers are based permanently in Kuwait where they take care of military equipment kept under a defense accord concluded after the oil-rich emirate's liberation from Iraqi occupation in February 1991.

Saudi Arabia

Chinese Sports Commission Official Pays Visit

Makes Statement Upon Arrival

LD2808222093 Riyadh SPA in English 1933 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Riyadh, Aug 28, SPA—Chairman of the National Commission for Physical Education and Sports of the Peoples Republic of China, Wu Shaozu arrived in Riyadh tonight on a visit to the kingdom in response to an invitation he received from Prince Faysal Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the chairman of the Youth Welfare General Presidency.

Upon arrival to the King Khalid international airport, the Chinese official was received by Ibrahim al-'Ali, the undersecretary of the Chairman for Technical Affairs, Suliman al-Jabhan, the secretary general of the Saudi Olympic Committee, the members of the Chinese embassy in Riyadh and many officials.

In a statement to the S.P.A. upon arrival, the Chinese official said he will hold talks with Prince Faysal on ways to bolster cooperation between the two countries in youth and sports fields.

He commended the great efforts made by Prince Faysal Bin Fahd to promote sports in the kingdom and in the Asian continent.

Received by Prince Faysal

LD2908200993 Riyadh SPA in English 1912 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Riyadh, Aug 29, SPA—Prince Faysal Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the chairman of the Youth Welfare General Presidency received here today Mr. Wu Shaozu, the chairman of the Chinese National Commission for Physical Education and executive chairman of the organizing committee for the Beijing Olympic Games for 2000 and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed ways to enhance youth and sports cooperation between the two countries and the Chinese official expressed pleasure over visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He commended the efforts of Prince Faysal to bolster youth and sports in the kingdom and for his constant support for the sector of youth and sports in the Asian continent. Afterwards memorial gifts were exchanged.

The Chinese sports and Olympic official started an official visit to the kingdom on Saturday responding an invitation he received from Prince Faysal.

The Chinese delegation visited the Saudi Olympic complex and then toured the athletic therapy hospital of the presidency where he saw the advanced technical and medical equipments and the highly qualified medical cadres and facilities provided for the Saudi sports sector.

Later on Sunday, the Chinese delegation visited the King Fahd international stadium in Riyadh and afterwards the chairman of the delegation expressed admiration over the marvelous sports establishments he toured.

Departs After 3-Day Visit

LD3008201293 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Riyadh, Aug 30, SPA—The head of the Chinese National Committee for Physical Education and Sports and executive chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Beijing Olympic Games tournament to be hosted by China in the year 2000, left Riyadh on Monday [30 August] after a three-day visit to the kingdom.

Mr. Wu Shaozu was seen off at the King Khalid international airport by Ibrhaim al-Ali, the undersecretary of the general president of the youth welfare, staff members of the Chinese embassy in Riyadh and many officials.

During the visit, the Chinese official held talks with Prince Faysal Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the chairman of the youth welfare and other senior officials and visited a number of Saudi sports and olympic establishments.

Yemen

'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa, Comments on Peace Talks

JN3008143093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Sanaa today. He is on a visit to our country during which he will brief the political leadership on the latest developments concerning the peace process and conditions in the region.

'Arafat made a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', in which he extended congratulations to the political leadership on the occasion of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him.

He noted that the Palestine question is currently passing through a very important and historical stage, especially after the conclusion of the Palestinian leadership's meetings, which were held recently in Tunis. He said these meetings were conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere and ended with important results. He said there are many changes, especially in regards to the Palestinian intifadah, which is growing despite the suppression and the criminal military escalation by the Zionist enemy, which is murdering children, women, and old men, and desecrating the Muslim and Christian sacred places.

He stressed that he will brief the brother president on all these developments. He also said he will consult with the Yemeni leadership over developments.

Asked about his expectations for the 11th round of the peace talks, which is due to start in Washington tomorrow, 'Arafat said: It hinges on how well the other side responds to our proposal on the declaration of principles, withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho as part of the declaration of principles, and the negotiations over the transitional self-rule period over all the occupied Palestinian territories, including Holy Jerusalem.

The Palestinian leader was received by brothers 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Haddi, member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress and an adviser to the Presidential Council; Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine; a representative from the Presidential Council Protocol Department; and a number of Palestinian Revolution cadres.

Radio Rounds Up 'Arafat's Visit

JN3108081693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman. They discussed recent developments in the Palestinian arena and efforts to achieve peace in the region, in addition to issues of interest to our Arab nation.

The Palestinian president briefed the chairman of the Presidential Council on the results of the contacts the Palestinian leadership has recently held to give a push to the peace process and to reach an agreement on the transition phase of the Palestinian track in a way that guarantees the establishment of Palestinian authority over all the occupied Palestinian territories. This phase starts with an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and will lead to an independent Palestinian state.

During the meeting, the Palestinian president lauded our country's principled support for the Palestinian people's struggle. He pointed out that the Palestine issue is passing through an important turning point.

The Presidential Council chairman expressed our country's support for the PLO's efforts and all other efforts to achieve a just solution to the Palestine question, which is the basic element in any just and lasting peace in the region.

Brother 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Haddi, member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member; Bashir al-Barghuthi, PLO Central Council member; Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa; and commander of the Palestinian forces in our country, attended the meeting.

Palestinian leader brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, left Sanaa today following a short visit to our country, during which he briefed Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on recent developments in the Palestine question.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother 'Arafat described his meeting with the Presidential Council chairman as good, positive, and fruitful, particularly at this decisive and historic stage where the current talks in Washington and elsewhere have made a great progress. He added that in this regard, he heard valuable advice from the Presidential Council chairman, which would give a great push forward to the Palestine question and safeguard Palestinian national and the pan-Arab rights, foremost of which is holy Jerusalem.

In his statement, the Palestinian leader noted that during his visit to our country, he also met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The meeting was good. In this respect, he said that his relationship with former President Jimmy Carter is old. He noted that he briefed Jimmy Carter on the recent developments in the current negotiations, and asked him to exert efforts to crystallize a speedy and decisive U.S. stand on all levels in a way to serve the peace process and to achieve national Palestinian rights and pan-Arab rights under these fateful and important circumstances and under the new world order.

He was seen off at Sanaa International Airport by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Haddi, member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress and adviser at the Presidential Council, Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa, a representative of the Presidential Council's protocol, and a number of Palestinian revolution's cadres.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Arab Reconciliation

NC3008065293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, in Sanaa, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to our program.

[Basindwah] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Allow us to start this dialogue with a topical issue, that of Arab reconciliation. What is the Yemeni view of this issue?

[Basindwah] The Yemeni view is that openness should precede reconciliation. A frank exchange of opinion would create the right atmosphere for reconciliation. My fear is that if reconciliation were to precede openness, it might stumble later because of animosity and mutual recriminations.

[Al-Jundi] This is about reconciliation and openness. Are there any Yemeni efforts currently under way to achieve reconciliation?

[Basindwah] I think that a considerable Yemeni effort has been made in this regard. Our relations with five members states of the Gulf Cooperation Council are currently good and free from any problems.

[Al-Jundi] You mean five Gulf states.

[Basindwah] Yes.

[Al-Jundi] Which ones?

[Basindwah] Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain, in addition to the Sultanate of Oman, with which we never had any problems.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that your recent visit to Saudi Arabia was a step toward consolidating Yemen's relations with all Gulf Cooperation Council countries, particularly the country that suffered most, Kuwait?

[Basindwah] My visit to Saudi Arabia and meetings with King Fahd the custodian of the two holy mosques and His Highness Defense Minister Prince Sultan achieved their objectives. The committee on joint borders has resumed its work. It met in Sanaa a few days ago. As for the brothers in Kuwait, we have nothing but amity and respect for them. We have taken the first step toward mending the rift with them. We now leave it up to them to reciprocate. Whenever they are ready, we will be ready to meet them.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, you say that Yemen is ready to do what it is asked to do. Will Yemen not make its own initiative?

[Basindwah] We could make an initiative if our relations with the two concerned parties [not further specified] were good and if we were in touch with both of them. But, as you know, our relations with Kuwait have not been resumed yet.

[Al-Jundi] But efforts are under way to mend the rift.

[Basindwah] We have done what we had to do. We made our move. We were hoping that the brothers in Kuwait would reciprocate. However, we have to understand their situation and leave it up to them. The ball is now in their court as I have said repeatedly.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, Yemen has recently settled its border dispute with Oman, and a joint Yemeni-Saudi committee has been established to try to settle the border problem between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Can we say that Yemen is utilizing this process to develop its relations with the Arab states, particularly the Gulf states?

[Basindwah] I do not think that the border issue should affect our relations with our other neighbors and brothers in the Gulf states. We have common borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia. The border issue existed before the second Gulf crisis and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Nevertheless, the relations were very good, and God willing, they will remain so. Just as we have been able to settle the border issue with the brothers in Oman, we are confident that we, God willing, will be able to solve the border problem with our brothers and neighbors in Saudi Arabia. But we are not using the border issue to repair or damage relations. On the contrary, the border issue can be settled in a cordial and brotherly spirit and in a manner that will safeguard the rights of both sides.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, how do you see the prospects of uniting the Arab ranks in the future?

[Basindwah] I think that the Arab leaders are called upon today—more than at any time before—to sense their responsibility and realize that unless Arab solidarity is achieved as soon as possible, the Arabs will witness the worst period in their contemporary history. Arab disunity must not continue.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, before I finish this dialogue, I must ask you a question about Egyptian-Yemeni relations. How can Egyptian-Yemeni relations be utilized to serve the Arab causes in general?

[Basindwah] I think that we in Yemen are in control of one of the two approaches to the Red Sea. You in Egypt are in control of the other approach. The relations

between Yemen and Egypt are deep rooted. These relations were baptized by blood when the Egyptian people and Army helped Yemen during our revolution against the defunct imams' rule and British colonialism. I think that Egypt and Yemen can play a major role in restoring Arab solidarity. Everyone must realize that Yemen is no longer the Yemen they knew in the past. Yemen now plays a very great role in view of its human and strategic importance. Yemen and Egypt can join in an initiative to restore Arab relations and achieve Arab solidarity. Egypt, Yemen, and every other Arab state must assume their responsibilities in this regard.

[Al-Jundi] Brother Arabs, in conclusion of this telephone interview, we thank our interviewee, Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah. We thank him very much and welcome him always on the air waves of the Voice of the Arabs.

President Salih Addresses Interior Ministry Meeting

JN2808161293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today attended the opening session of the expanded meeting of the Interior Ministry's senior officials. This meeting is being held at the Police College hall on 28-31 August 1993.

The brother president said: I am pleased to attend this expanded meeting of the Interior Ministry's senior officials. To begin, I want to express my thanks, pride, and appreciation to all Interior Ministry employees for their recent efforts to enhance public security and fight all forms of crime. We hope that the brothers in the security forces will continue these efforts, so they will be constant and effective, rather than temporary measures. We also want to urge further cooperation and integration among the security forces, the Justice Ministry, and the public prosecutor's office in order to limit crime and punish criminals.

The brother president lauded the cooperation between the Armed Forces, citizens, and the security forces. He said that this cooperation is fundamental and important in achieving the aspired objectives, represented by the entrenchment of security and the provision of tranquility to the community.

Radio Reports on Talks To Be Held With UN Delegation

JN3008193593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] An Iraqi technical delegation will begin technical talks with the UN Special Commission tomorrow, Tuesday [31 August], afternoon.

The Iraqi delegation to these talks is headed by Lieutenant General Engineer Dr. 'Amir Rashid al-'Ubaydi, director of the Military Industrialization Organization. Lt. Gen. 'Amir Rashid is accompanied by several technicians specializing in the areas that will be addressed in the talks. Lt. Gen. 'Amir Rashid and his delegation arrived in New York at dawn today, Monday, Baghdad time.

The UN delegation to these talks is led by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission. Lt. Gen. 'Amir Rashid is scheduled to meet this evening, New York time, with Rolf Ekeus to prepare for the start of talks tomorrow, Tuesday.

The technical talks between Iraq and the United Nations are expected to last two weeks. They will address the outstanding technical issues between Iraq and the UN Special Commission related to Section C of Resolution 687. The talks will also address the means of implementing Resolution 715 in light of the position paper the Iraqi side submitted to Mr. Rolf Ekeus during the visit he made to Iraq in July, the text of which Iraq later sent to the UN Security Council.

It is to be recalled that the Iraqi position stresses the need for the UN Security Council to honor its commitments toward Iraq, particularly with regard to the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 concerning the lifting of the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq.

The Iraqi position paper also underscores the need to respect Iraq's sovereignty, security, and national rights, as well as its right to scientific development in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

'New String' of Iranian Shelling Alleged

JN3008202693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The United Nations, 30 Aug (INA)—Iraq has informed the UN General Secretariat of a new string of Iranian military aggressions on Iraqi territory in northern Iraq.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Nizar Hamdun, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations, said that the Iranian regime's artillery continued to shell villages in northern Iraq during period from 9-15 August.

Ambassador Hamdun indicated that the Iranian artillery shelling on 9 August set large areas of farmland on fire in the village of Dawlah Wazah [name as received] east of Qal'at Dizah. Iranian aggressions on 10 August caused several Iraqi families to flee the village.

Ambassador Hamdun added that the Iranian regime's artillery shelled the villages of Shinawa, Kanilan, Kani Kawi [placename as received], Kani Kawah, ('Kamariyan), Khalifan, and the areas adjacent to Raniyah District during the night of 14-15 August. This caused the residents of these border villages to flee their homes, not to mention the Iraqi farmland set ablaze.

Airspace 'Violations' Reported to Arab League

JN2908150293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace, thus seriously jeopardizing Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace during the period from 23-25 August, flying from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. During that period, they conducted 167 hostile air sorties.

The Iraqi delegate requested that the letter be circulated among Arab states so they may be made aware of it. A list detailing these violations was attached to the letter.

Prime Minister Reiterates Solidarity With Sudan

JN2808134393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1054 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, a member of the Revolution Command Council and the prime minister, has reiterated Iraq's complete solidarity with and support for sisterly Sudan in confronting foreign conspiracies and imperialist and Zionist schemes. He said this in his meeting today with Dr. Amal Ibrahim Muhammad, the acting first secretary at the Sudanese Finance Ministry and the deputy chairman of the Sudanese side in the Joint Iraqi-Sudanese Committee. Al-Zubaydi said: Sudan is being exposed to conspiracies and pressure because of its pan-Arab and Islamic position and its endeavor to control its national and free will.

Dr. Amal Ibrahim Muhammad conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of the Sudanese leadership, reiterating Sudan's solidarity with Iraq in its confrontation against the imperialist and Zionist aggression. She also underscored the deep relations between the two sisterly countries, noting the success of her mission in Iraq.

Minutes of Trade Agreement Signed

JN2808164893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1452 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Iraq and Sudan today signed the minutes of an agreement on trade cooperation.

The minutes were signed for Iraq by Faruq Dawud Salman, the Trade Ministry director general for economic relations and deputy chairman of the Iraqi delegation to the Iraqi-Sudanese economic committee.

The minutes were signed for Sudan by Mrs. Amal Ibrahim Muhammad, the deputy under secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and deputy chairman of the Sudanese delegation to the committee .

The minutes include clauses on activating and promoting trade and economic relations between Iraq and Sudan in the interest of the peoples of the two sisterly countries.

AL-QADISIYAH Views U.S. Involvement in Somalia

JN2808142193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH rules out the possibility of a U.S. troop withdrawal from Somalia, despite the bitter losses the U.S. Marines deployed there have sustained.

In an analysis published today, the paper, which speaks for the Ministry of Defense, notes that U.S. public opinion and U.S. decisionmakers are, at present, sharply divided over the U.S. presence in Somalia.

The paper adds: While watching the ordeal of their sons on television screens, American families have begun to push for their sons to be returned home, and to put an end to this new stupidity. U.S. monopolies, meanwhile, are now busy in Somalia with something deemed more important than the lives of U.S. troops.

AL-QADISIYAH cites foreign reports on several secret geological explorations currently under way in various areas in Somalia under the supervision of U.S. teams, saying: U.S. monopolies, which have come to be known as the military-industrial complex that makes U.S. policy decisions, seem indifferent to losses in the ranks of U.S. troops. Some reports, the paper adds, have confirmed that the U.S. troops deployed in Somalia will remain there until these geological explorations are finished. We should recall that geological reports released a few years ago revealed the existence of large reserves of uranium and other strategic minerals in Somalia.

The paper concludes by saying: The recent results of the Somalia operation, which is now sponsored by the United Nations, have shown the real U.S. intentions and refuted the claims of humanitarian concern for people in this country advanced to justify foreign intervention. Some European countries taking part in the operation, primarily Italy and France, have expressed indignation with and opposition to the way force is being used in Somalia, and consequently decided to withdraw their troops from this country by the end of the year.

Saddam Receives Student Delegation, Speaks on Education

JN3008195793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received the president and members of the Executive Bureau of the National Union of Iraqi Students.

His excellency the president, may God protect him, was kind enough to deliver a valuable educational and social speech on the occasion. In his speech, the leader president addressed all that concerns students at school. He also spoke on how their relationship with their families and with the society at large should be. He enlightened his sons and daughters, the students, about the proper methods and remedial action that could enable them to lead a healthy and purposeful school life—something that will allow them to pursue their studies and be valuable citizens serving their homeland and society, as well as their families.

At the end of the meeting, Fahd Salim al-Shakrah, president of the National Union of Iraqi Students, presented his excellency the president with a gift on behalf of students in mujahid Iraq. The gift was a framed painting that reflects the cultural continuity of Mesopotamia throughout all of its historical phases and epochs.

The painting includes pictures of the martyrs of the National Union of Iraqi Students who fell during various stages of struggle in mujahid Iraq. It also includes a pledge of allegiance by the union masses, affirming their high readiness to defend the gains brought about by the great 17-30 July revolution under the banner of God is great declared by the leader president, may God protect him.

Retired Military Said Banned From Travel; 5 Executed

NC3008164893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The authorities of Baghdad's ostracized regime have issued instructions banning retired Army officers from traveling abroad for any reason. They also imposed a 500,000-dinar financial guarantee on university professors wishing to travel abroad.

Our radio has learned that over the past three days the regime's authorities on the Iraqi-Jordanian border prevented several retired Army officers, including very senior ones, from crossing into Jordan and ordered them to return to Baghdad.

REUTER cited Iraqi opposition sources as saying that five senior Iraqi Army officers have been executed in the past few days and that a sixth officer, wanted for execution, is currently in Amman. The opposition sent a memorandum to the Jordanian Government urging it to protect him.

Further on Reported Executions

NC3008155193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] According to reports from Baghdad, the ostracized and bloody regime has executed several civilians and military personnel, including some 30 officers, in the past few days on charges of conspiring against him. According to rumors in Tikrit, Major General Raji 'Abbas al-Tikriti, a physician; and former ambassador and lawyer Jasim Mukhlis were among those executed.

It has been learned in Baghdad that Mukhlis' family, which used to be close to Hamdan 'Abd-al-Ghaffar al-Tikriti, is now facing a backlash from the ostracized regime, although its members are trying to keep a low profile and occupy themselves with their agricultural work in Tikrit.

Travelers from Iraq have reported that former minister Dr. Gha'ib Mawlud Mukhlis and his brothers Sufyan and Basil have fled to Amman to avoid arrest. The travelers added that tribal authorities in Tikrit have moved the burial vault of the family's doyen Mawlud Mukhlis to another site and have changed the city street carrying his name to Salah al-Din Street.

Minister: Nation Ready To Use 'Various Export Outlets'

JN3008145793 Baghdad INA in English 1209 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 30, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister Usama al-Hiti, said Iraq is fully prepared to export its oil through various export capabilities when favourable conditions are available.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper published today, Mr. al-Hiti said the Oil Ministry depending on its technical and engineering cadre managed to complete the necessary preparations for exporting Iraqi oil across various export outlets.

The minister said that various significant offers were received by the Iraqi Oil Ministry over the past few months from various foreign companies to buy Iraqi oil and said that Iraq would surprise the world of what it had achieved in the field of oil production and processing despite the damages inflicted on Iraq's oil installations during the 30-state aggression.

The Iraqi minister affirmed that Iraq, on its return to the oil markets, would seriously try to strengthen the role of the Organization of Petroluem Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the international market through coordination with other member states to stabilize oil prices.

The minister said that oil prices should be fair to both the exporter and the producer and that is what Iraq tries to realize in addition to its respect of OPEC resolutions because that would contribute to maintaining the role and activity of the organization.

The minister further said that Iraq's non-participation in some OPEC meetings does not necessarily means non-compliance with the organization resolutions but rather was the result of extraordinary conditions that would be removed shortly.

The minister further said that non-commitment of some OPEC states to the oil production ceiling and determination on the policy of flooding the oil markets had caused the decline of oil prices and failing to achieve a markets stability apart from selling oil against prices less than its real value.

Islamic Delegation To Tour World To Lift Blockade

JN2808124693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—A large Islamic delegation will begin an Arab, Islamic, and world tour in the next few days to call for lifting the blockade on the Iraqi people. Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas announced this in a statement AL-JUMHURIYAH published today. The minister said: The mission of the delegation, which will comprise—in addition to Islamic scholars from Iraq—Islamic scholars from various parts of the world, is to push for the lifting of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and the release of the Iraqi prisoners of war held in Iran, as well as to urge the Iranian regime to release the Iraqi civilian and military planes sent to Iran during the criminal 30-state aggression against Iraq. 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas added that the delegation will discuss the Arab and Islamic countries' arbitrary and exaggerated implementation of the U.S. imposed blockade.

The awqaf and religious affairs minister noted that this move comes as a result of the decisions by the Islamic conference, which was held in Baghdad in January, in which personalities from the entire Islamic world took part. He added that the move seeks to lobby Islamic public opinion to make Islamic countries and people straighten out matters.

The minister stressed that Iraq has carried out all its commitments vis-a-vis the Security Council resolutions while the council has not met its commitments in accordance with its own resolutions.

Paper Surveys Increasing Prices of Food, Staples

JN2708182493 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Aug 93 p 4

[By Rawiyah Hashim]

[Text] Baghdad—Prices for food and luxury items in the Baghdad marketplace are going up all the time. AL-JUMHURIYAH has observed an abundance of such goods on the market. However, they remain beyond the reach of many consumers who can only stare, or alternatively, pay the stiff price of something they so badly want. Unscrupulous traders continue to overcharge without concern for the straits in which many consumers find themselves. Efforts to monitor compliance with tariffs and to catch and punish offenders seem to be little more than formalities or are nonexistent.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has been touring local Baghdad markets, including al-Shurjah—the largest—and logged the prices of some of the goods for sale.

A large can of formula—the Nido trademark—is being sold for 650 dinars, the small one for 30 dinars [figures as published]. A can of (Blarcon) milk costs 25-28 dinars. Pasta [unit unspecified] costs 10 dinars, and three packs of vermicelli 25 dinars. Tea prices have gone up according to brand: Al-Diwan is offered at 140 dinars per kilo, al-'Alam at 75 dinars per kilo, while al-Nab' trademark tea costs 71 dinars per kilo. The price of a large can of cooking oil is 75 dinars; solid cooking fat has gone up to 900 dinars. (Al-Tarshanah) is being sold for 50 dinars and (Al-Kishmish) for 85 dinars [unit unspecified].

Retailers of food items dissociate themselves from the inflated prices and blame wholesalers who, they contend, choose to periodically mark up prices. Prices, per kilo, of legumes—available aplenty in the al-Shurjah market—are as follows: Beans 24 dinars; chickpeas 18-20; (al-Mash) 13 dinars; and lintel 40 dinars.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also logged the prices of certain electrical appliances. A small flashlight costs 7.5 dinars, with the larger size selling for 12-15 dinars. A small flashlight battery costs 3.5 dinars, the large size 10 dinars.

With the new academic year drawing closer, the prices of stationery, school bags, and uniforms have also skyrocketed. A university uniform is being offered by hawkers for 150-200 dinars, a school uniform for 120-150 dinars per a boy's pair of trousers. The going price for a schoolgirl's blouse is 150-180 dinars. Fabric school bags will set you back 50-150 dinars, a dozen pencils 20-25 dinars, a 20-page copybook five dinars. The prices of other stationery items range from five to 10 dinars.

Mothers shopping around complained about the prices of school uniforms. They demanded that school uniform and stationery prices be held down to suit the budgets of low income groups.

Other items that AL-JUMHURIYAH noted have shot up include soap and glassware, with the price of soap hitting 130 dinars per kilo, the (al-Sumar) detergent small pack 25 dinars, local shampoo 30-35 dinars, the imported variety 40-45 dinars.

AL-JUMHIRIYAH monitored cases where citizens sold items to hawkers at high prices, with the latter in turn offering the same items for sale at double their cost. Glass tea sets were sold for 120 dinars, the price of table sets went up to 240 dinars, while the rates of kitchen utensils varied.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also went to Bab al-Mu'azzam, Bagdhad al-Jadidah, and al-Kazimiyah, and compiled a list of fruits and vegetables, the prices of which have also shot up. A kilo of tomatoes costs 12-18 dinars, while a large can of tomato paste costs 93-96 dinars.

Prime Minister Chairs Meeting on Crop Cultivation

JN3008154793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has presided over a preliminary meeting to draft a plan for the cultivation campaign of the next season. The meeting was attended by the minister of finance, the minister of irrigation and acting minister of agriculture, the minister of industry and minerals, the minister of transport and communications, and the minister of oil.

The conferees recommended the formation of subcommittees in all governorates, to be chaired by their governors. The secretaries of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party branches, representatives of the General Federation of Peasants Cooperative Societies, and the agencies concerned will be members of such subcommittees. These subcommittees will draw up detailed and comprehensive plans for the cultivation of crops in the governorates.

The conferees have also decided to form another committee that will be charged with evaluating the current agricultural season, as well as the current harvest and marketing campaign. This committee will address the positive and the negative aspects noted in this campaign. Each governorate will be asked to deliver a detailed report on the campaign within a specific timeframe.

The meeting was also attended by Cabinet Secretary Hamid Salih al-Rawi, the under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, the deputy chief of the Military Industrialization Organization, and several other officials.

Koran Copies Printed For Distribution to Schools

JN2708193393 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Aug 93 p 4

[By Rahim Muzid]

[Text] Baghdad—Following an order by His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn that the holy Koran become a required subject for all school stages, the printing of five million copies of the book is nearing completion.

A Ministry of Education source reports that the books, to be issued to school children of all grades, have already been shipped to storehouses of the directorates of the Ministry of Education in Baghdad and the governorates.

Yesterday, a meeting was held to decide on the logistics of the distribution of the books at the start of the coming school year, the source said.

Officials Said Negotiating With PLO in Europe

TA3108044493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem say Israel and the PLO may agree on mutual recognition even before the two sides sign a statement of principles in Washington. A Qol Yisra'el correspondent says meetings are reportedly taking place in Europe between Israeli and PLO officials.

PLO Recognition Being Finalized

TA3108075893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Hemi Shalev and agencies]

[Excerpt] Uri Savir, the Foreign Ministry director general, is on a secret mission in Europe to finalize the details of mutual Israel-PLO recognition. This was stated by political sources in Jerusalem yesterday. Officials in Jerusalem were also involved in formulating the details of the agreement which will lead to Israeli recognition of the PLO based on the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist and a commitment to stop terror, as well as to change or suspend the Palestinian Covenant.

Norwegian elements who were involved in achieving the initial agreement with the Palestinians are apparently also involved in the ongoing secret negotiations. If an agreement is achieved today or tomorrow, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres may leave for Washington to sign a declaration of principles together with a senior PLO leader.

Peres is slated to leave Thursday [2 September] for a one-day visit to Brussels to participate in an Israeli ambassadors' meeting dedicated to discussing economic affairs. Peres was supposed to stay in Brussels for all three days of the meeting, but shortened his stay due to the political developments.

From Brussels, Peres will go to Paris to meet with Jacques Delors, the EC president. Peres will discuss with Delors a European aid program for the territories, as concluded in the agreement with the Palestinians. Peres will also raise with Delors Israel's protest of procedural delay in negotiating and approving the new Israeli-EC accord.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin yesterday told U.S. Senator Harris Wofford, currently visiting Israel, that Israel should decide now whether to not recognize the PLO, which would strengthen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or agree to recognize the PLO based on changes in the organization's positions.

Beilin said that in his opinion the declaration of principles should not be brought to the Knesset for approval or to a national referendum, since this refers to a declaration of principals that will follow the signing of an interim agreement, and it is impossible to have agreements at every stage of the negotiations brought to the Knesset for resolution. According to Beilin, an understanding was reached with the Palestinians to conduct negotiations to reach a detailed arrangement on the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho within a few months.

As part of the detailed agreement, Beilin said, the Palestinians will be able to run these territories by themselves, and will be in charge of all walks of life, except for foreign and security affairs. He said that the interim period will begin the moment the detailed Gaza and Jericho First agreement is signed.

Beilin said Israel estimates that the nature of the permanent arrangement will be "a federation or a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians." In the framework of this agreement, he said, Israel will withdraw from most of the territories, but will not return to the 1967 borders. According to him, the Palestinians should understand that no change will take place in Jerusalem's status. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves Draft Agreement With Palestinians

TA3008221293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2200 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] With a vast majority, the cabinet approved the draft of an agreement of principles with the Palestinians after over five hours of deliberations. Two ministers abstained, Shim'on Shetrit and Arye Der'i. Minister Shetrit had several reservations about the way in which the agreement was attained, while Der'i explained that he may very well quit his job shortly and it would be unfair to back a process for which he would bear no responsibility later.

Ministers Comment

TA3108060093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Report by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan on several ministers' comments following the approval of the agreement with the Palestinians during the 30 August cabinet meeting—passages in italics recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Minister Yosi Sarid considers the issue of security as the main point of last night's agreement.

[Sarid] *The discussion the cabinet held was very serious. It was one of the most, perhaps the most important and serious debate this cabinet has held since its establishment. I think I can say that all ministers are satisfied that the security of the State of Israel was guaranteed.*

[Dan] The following is a short reaction by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who was lauded yesterday by the prime minister for his activity.

[Peres] *I am very pleased. Sixteen ministers voted in favor of the agreement. This is a vast majority indeed.*

[Friedman] A very short answer by Peres indeed. Minister Mikha Harish says it is now possible to name every

person who participated in the Israeli-Palestinian talks, but recognition of the PLO was not part of these talks.

[Harish] *This issue was not discussed at this stage. It is clear that the PLO has been behind the Palestinian representation and negotiations since the Madrid days, that includes Yitzhaq Shamir's days as well. The only difference is that the masquerade ball is now over.*

[Dan] Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said last night's cabinet approval was the only authorization required.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] *This issue does not require a national referendum since this agreement does not surrender land or anything else. An interim agreement does not necessitate a national referendum. Such an agreement is within the government's basic guidelines.*

[Friedman] Minister Moshe Shahal believes that the agreement reached on the Palestinian track will have wider implications.

[Shahal] *I believe this agreement will push the Syrians toward progress, more so than we have seen to date. They will not want to remain outside the picture. Coordination will be required between all security forces and the Palestinian police. The latter will be able to adapt itself to operational needs and to act in coordination with the Israeli organization which will undoubtedly have access to it.*

Peres: Plan Ready for Signing

TA3108101793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and says the time is drawing near for a PLO declaration recognizing Israel and renouncing terror. Conversely, Israel will announce recognition of the PLO. Our correspondent asked Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to comment.

[Begin recording] Mr. Peres, the cabinet approved the agreement of principles, and the question now is when Israel will recognize the PLO and the PLO will recognize Israel. It has been said that this is a very short process, expected to last no more than possibly a few days.

[Peres] I do not want to prophesy. This agreement stands on its own feet, and does not depend on other agreements. This agreement, in my opinion, is ready for approval, for signing. I am very happy that such a large cabinet majority approved it yesterday. This is not the case with regard to all issues. In fact, 16 ministers voted in favor of the agreement, and there were two abstentions, but nobody opposed the agreement. We should now precisely decide where, when, and by whom it will be signed.

[Raz] What is the possibility that PLO members, that 'Arafat himself, will come to live here in Gaza or in the Jericho area?

[Peres] I would like to remind you that at this stage we have not recognized either the PLO or 'Arafat. If a change occurs, a discussion will take place, and these questions will be answered.

[Raz] In your estimation, is Israel today close to a possible recognition of the PLO as a political organization?

[Peres] The answer to this question lies in whether or not the PLO is about to change to the point where Israel can recognize it. The PLO, as it is today, does not allow Israel to recognize it. A PLO that will eliminate, for example, those sections of the Palestinian Covenant that call for the destruction of Israel, a PLO that renounces terror, will be a different PLO. Therefore, reference is not to recognition of the PLO as it is, but to recognition by the PLO of a totally different situation.

[Raz] To the best of your knowledge, in the wake of Christopher's criticism, will the Americans too now change their attitude toward the PLO?

[Peres] I am not the Americans' spokesman, nor can I be.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 31 August adds that "a senior political source in Jerusalem believes that the PLO is very close to announcing recognition of Israel, a renunciation of terror, and the cancellation of several clauses in the Palestinian Covenant, and at the same time, Israel will announce recognition of the PLO."]

Knesset Briefed by Rabin, Peres on PLO Accord

Peres Criticizes Opposition

TA3008140393 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1208 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Speech by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to a special Knesset plenum session in Jerusalem in answer to motions on the agenda concerning the agreement with the PLO on the Gaza-Jericho First plan—live; Peres' speech is frequently interrupted by heckling from the floor]

[Text] Honorable Knesset, the following are our proposals regarding the territories: The removal of the military authorities and the Civil Administration. The Arab residents will elect an administrative council on their own. We will not intervene in their handling of daily affairs. The term of the administrative council will be for four years from the day of its election. Its residence will be in Bethlehem. On behalf of the agreement and peace, Israel is proposing that the problem of sovereignty in these territories remain open. A strong local police force will be set up, and this force can also include Jordanian civilians. If any PLO sympathizer is elected to this administrative council, what will our attitude be? We will tell them then: If you behave properly, you will sit on this council. Who said so in the past? It was none other than Menahem Begin!

Let me say now that I was very impressed with David Levi's speech. It was truly a nice opposition speech. I am extending my compliments to him on this. He asked why the overjoyousness about the agreement. My friend David: We are now witnessing the beginning of the end of a 100-year conflict between us and the Palestinians, and you are still living in the past. [Responding to repeated heckling by Likud Knesset Member (MK) Moshe Qatzav] You are a young man who is not capable of seeing five steps ahead. [Responding to Likud MK Beni Begin] You are an intelligent person who lives in the past and is totally blind to today and tomorrow, blind and unwilling to hear and see. The world has changed completely. It is only you in the Likud who do not know about this. The conflict between the United States and Russia is over, and Russian weapons do not flow in abundant quantities and for free to the Arabs. The Third World is over, and the Arabs no longer enjoy the right of a disruptive majority around the world. You, the opposition, are only looking back. It is Iran rather than Israel that is currently seen as a danger by the Arab world, and hatred for Zionism has grown weaker due to greater and just hatred of fundamentalism. Still, you stick to your oppositionist refrain.

Let me answer you David Levi. What, in fact, is your question? Your question is why did we not strike an agreement on all of Judaea and Samaria, instead of Jericho only? Why does this disturb you? Menahem Begin at the time did not propose Jericho, which—as Binyamin Netanyahu defined it—is only 15 minutes away from Jerusalem, but rather Bethlehem, which is only three minutes away from Jerusalem. Is Bethlehem kosher while Jericho is forbidden? [Peres takes issue with MK Beni Begin who keeps interrupting his speech] You have no idea what I am talking about. You are talking to yourself. I did not mislead anybody. What you, the opposition, want is an alliance of bluffs in the State of Israel. It is you who started the negotiations with the PLO and is it you now who are leveling accusations at us.

To go back to David Levi's truly nice opposition speech—I do not want to offend anybody, but it was David Levi who delivered today's remarkable opposition speech. MK David Levi very neatly accused us of three things: First, he said, why are you coming to terms with the PLO? As I have said before in reference to this point, the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that if the PLO behaves properly we will talk to them and we will not scrutinize them with a magnifying glass. However, I do not want to dwell on this issue.

I would like to tell MK David Levi that we were not the ones who removed our opposition to the PLO. It is the PLO that has been disbanding as a terror organization. We will not recognize the PLO unless it amends the Palestinian Covenant and renounces terror. There was once an organization called the FLN [Algeria's National Liberation Front] that engaged in terror. Then it renounced terror and became a political party. People who live in the past do not understand anything because they change nothing.

What is the situation in the field? There is a Palestinian coalition that wants to attain an arrangement and a minority organization, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. [Heckling by Likud MK Yehoshu'a Matza that he is hallucinating]

MK Matza, I hallucinated that we would have a nuclear reactor, an aviation industry, and a strong IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. What hallucinations did you have? Some nerve! You call me a hallucinator? It will do you no good, nobody will be intimated by you!

The situation in the field is that there is an armed Hamas and a Palestinian coalition without a police force. We must protect the Palestinian majority from the armed Palestinian minority. Why? David says they cannot be trusted to fight Hamas. Tell me: Why did they fight in Jordan? Why did they have Black September [Jordan's campaign against the PLO in 1970]? Why do they not have Hamas in Jordan or in Egypt? Do you want to retain the monopoly? Let the Arabs protect their own majority! You need not be the one who defends the Arab majority! You need not be the one who fights the armed Arab minority! Let them do that! It is their business, not yours!

Incidentally, the Likud claims it launched the peace process. I would like to make the following distinction: The late Menahem Begin made peace. Mr. Shamir, may he live long, made a parade that was not going anywhere. That was his goal. The Likud staged a parade in Madrid with ornaments, ceremonies, and a table but quietly told themselves: We are not moving from here. This is only a way station, but we are not moving from here. It is not for nothing that Mr. Shamir voted against Mr. Begin's peace; it was no mere coincidence.

The agreement we have reached is better in several aspects than the Camp David accords and the autonomy plan that the Likud accepted, and on fundamental issues at that. The Camp David accords speak about an arrangement to ensure internal and external security, but do not stipulate who will be in charge of it; our agreement stipulates that we will be in charge. The Camp David accords do not mention the source of authority. Our agreement states that we are the source of authority. The Camp David accords are vague as to whether the autonomy applies to people or to territory; our agreement stipulates three categories distinguishing between territory, people, and issues.

As far as territory is concerned, the plan we propose does not include Jerusalem. [heckling] The Likud's proposed autonomy applied to all the territory up to the Green Line, while our agreement does not include either Jerusalem, the settlements, security areas, highways, or roads.

Secondly, our agreement speaks of personal autonomy which does not apply to Israelis, not just to settlers but to any Israeli in the area.

Our agreement makes a topical distinction, whereby the autonomy does not apply to the main issues of which we will be in charge. We have already spelled them out: We

will be in charge of foreign affairs, security, the settlers, and Israelis. These issues are clear and are better than all the vagueness, obscurity, evasiveness, and double-talk [previous word in English] that existed before.

I would like to make another point: There should be no doubt whatsoever that our proposal in no way refers to a Palestinian state. The following sentence in Hebrew, English, and every other possible language is included in the preamble of the agreement: The objective of the negotiations is to establish an interim Palestinian self-government authority in the framework of the current peace.

My dear David Levi, you claim we have no strategy. Let me refer briefly to MK Netanyahu's tall tales about deception. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said before the elections that we favor a territorial compromise. We did not deceive or defraud anybody. We said we did not want to annex 2 million Arabs. These things were said, and based on them we won a majority.

Moreover, we do have a strategy, both a negative and a positive one. The negative strategy is not to turn the Middle East into the Balkans and to turn Israel into Yugoslavia, but to make the Middle East resemble Europe and to make Israel a Jewish state. This is a clear and unequivocal strategy. David, perhaps deep in your heart you understand it very well. Why do I say that every Likud member believes that deep in his heart? Because, between you and me, when all is said and done, you gave up the Transjordan for the same reasons, although it may be hard for you to admit as much. Is the land of the Transjordan less worthy than the Jordan Rift Valley or the Golan Heights? Do you take us for fools? You know as well as we do that there will be no Balkans or Yugoslavia, but a region that lives in peace, a land that lives in peace with itself and with moral values, a country that does not rule over any other nation.

Mr. Netanyahu, with all due respect and honesty, I would like to tell you: We were in the opposition when the Likud came up with the proposal to uproot settlements. Some of my party colleagues were adamant in their opposition to such a move. As head of the opposition, I said that although I did not like it we must accept it. We were in the opposition, but contrary to many of you, we supported Begin. You should have stood up today and fully supported our proposals. You said the public must not be deceived. Did you not tell the people that you were in favor of autonomy? So, why do you not support autonomy? We are not proposing to uproot settlements, Jerusalem is not included in the agreement. So, why do you not have the wisdom, honesty, and courage to come out in support of autonomy? You are the one who is breaching a promise to the voters, not Rabin! Rabin is making good on his promises! You are the ones who are not! You are the ones who spoke about autonomy and are not prepared to fulfill it!

I heard you talk about Jericho. Is Bethlehem any better? If you say it is an interim arrangement, the whole nation must believe you. So, why is it any different when we say it is an interim arrangement? Do we speak a different language? Look, you were in America, and you are still in a daze. You have just come back and, believe me, you have not got a clue what we are talking about.

I would like to make an interim proposal to MK Moshe Qatzav: I will vow to oppose a Palestinian state, and you will vow to support the autonomy. Why not? I would like to reach an understanding with you. After all, you favor autonomy, except you have forgotten. Only half a year ago, you were in favor of autonomy. What has happened to you? What got into your head?

Members of the Likud, look deep into your souls. You are making a historic mistake. You made a commitment to autonomy, but, as MK Netanyahu put it, you are deceiving and defrauding the voters, you are not fulfilling your promises. As for us, we are united and convinced.

One may argue with one organization or another. However, we are not negotiating with organizations. We are negotiating with a people, the Palestinian people recognized in the Camp David accords. The Palestinian people [previous three words in English] is the term used in those accords. We want to make a Middle East of peace, dignity, and security.

Speaking of matters of security and seeing that the prime minister is not here, I would like to say that no other man has ever insisted on each and every minute detail pertaining to security as he has. We will be in charge of external and internal security. We will be in charge of the security of the State of Israel and the security of every Israeli, in all the territories.

This is a genuine proposal. We did not try to deceive either the Jews or the Palestinians. We want to live with them in peace. They are human beings just like us. We do not want to rule over them, scorn them, or humiliate them. They are not four-legged creatures. They are not demons or animals. They are human beings just like us—Israel's faith is based upon such precepts—and we will live with them in peace.

I call on my Likud colleagues to reconsider their position. First read what we are talking about, do not speculate. You took a very serious gamble when you chose to argue about speculation rather than about a written paper. You have not even seen it yet. The paper has worth, behind which stands the Jewish people, the State of Israel, and the IDF.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully detail the plan at this stage because the Israeli Government has not yet endorsed it. The cabinet will meet today at 1900 [1600 GMT] to hold a debate. I hope it will approve the plan, and we will be able to bring the good tidings to Israel's young generation that after 100 years of terror there will not be another 100 years of terror but the beginning of 100 years of dialogue and good neighborliness. The entire nation will rally around the flag and the book of prayers, and all

nations will march toward economic cooperation for the sake of the future of the entire region. I propose to refer all the motions to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 30 August reports that the motions were referred to the committee with a majority of 73 votes]

Rabin States Position

TA3008151493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1321 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to a special session of the coalition, convened in the Knesset building to hear about the agreement with the PLO—live]

[Text] This meeting was slated to discuss other subjects, but I am glad it is possible to discuss a substantive issue instead. Discuss is not the suitable word here though. I came to brief you only, as the cabinet has not yet made a decision, and it would be improper for me to bring this forum details regarding the possibility of signing an agreement between us and the Palestinian delegation in the framework of the Washington negotiations on the establishment of the interim arrangement. Therefore, I will settle for general comments.

I will not engage in apologies with the Likud. We have a policy. We have tasks and commitments that made up our platform when we ran in the last Knesset elections. The main mission was to promote the making of peace. We did not create the format of the Madrid peace conference, nor its continuation as reflected in the talks with the Arab delegations in Washington. Still, we introduced real content into a format that stayed above water during the Likud days. We came with our positions, positions which are expressed in the government's basic guidelines, as to how to advance toward peace with Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, and how to establish the interim arrangement, the autonomy, with the Palestinians in the territories. We undertook and are committed to doing this.

I have said more than once that the Madrid format is not ideal. But since the State of Israel is committed to this format, we will do our best in the framework of this format. We have said more than once that the key to a breakthrough lies in the negotiations with Syria or in the negotiations with the Palestinians. We want to reach peace with Jordan, and we honor the king and his regime. Similarly, we want to reach peace with Lebanon and honor the government ruling it. Still, it was clear to us that without making progress with Syria, it is doubtful whether we will be able to make progress with Lebanon. Also, without taking a significant step with regard to the Palestinians, it is doubtful whether Jordan would be willing to sign a peace accord with us. Therefore, we focused on these two fronts. I am telling you today that the horizons for peace are open. Progress has been made in the entire Arab arena with regard to readiness for peace. This does not mean that there are no obstacles or difficulties, but I am convinced that the horizons for peace are open. One should distinguish between the two fronts of negotiations, that with the Syrians and that with the Palestinians. With Syria, the negotiations revolve around the establishment of full peace, of signing a peace treaty. As for the Palestinians, reference is to the establishment of the interim arrangement.

The dialogue between us and the Syrians, whether direct or indirect—via the United States—made it clear to us that Syria is not prepared for full peace, nor according to our conditions yet, without receiving the price that an Israeli Government in the past determined as a precedent in return for peace, and I am referring to the peace with Egypt: namely, a comprehensive withdrawal and the uprooting of any Israeli presence in the area that will be evacuated. How did al-Asad put this in his talks with the Americans? He said: How am I different from the late Egyptian President al-Sadat? I did not say that we accepted his positions. Under the circumstances, after a dialogue with Palestinians who are not residents of the territories, we reached an agreement. Naturally, the test of this agreement—and I believe this will come to pass—will lie in the signing of an accord that will be consolidated in Washington between the existing delegations. The signing of such an accord between the Palestinian delegation and us in Washington will turn into a significant fact: It will make possible the establishment of the interim arrangement.

What did we insist on? First, this agreement was struck between us and the Palestinians, not conditional on what we will achieve with Lebanon, Syria, or Jordan. This is a bilateral agreement. Second, we insisted that Jerusalem would not be included in the framework of the interim arrangement, Jerusalem would not be included in any area where the powers of those who will administer the Palestinian issues in the territories will apply. Jerusalem remains under Israel's sovereignty and is Israel's unified capital. The settlements remain. There is no uprooting of settlements. We will not repeat this, neither in Judaea and Samaria, nor in Gaza. Third, security, in everything that relates not only to settlements but also to Israelis wherever they may be in the area, is in Israel's hands. Security on the confrontation lines, on Israel's borders, on any crossing line, is in our hands: along the Jordan River, in the Jordan Valley—except for the Jericho area—if it is part of the area that is included in the interim arrangement agreement, and along the Egyptian border, including the terminals. Security in all these places is in our hands and under our responsibility. We are prepared to be party to establishing a reality whereby the internal Palestinian security will be in the Palestinians' hands. I said internal Palestinian security, and let me reemphasize—the security of Israelis, of settlements and Israelis both, is in our hands, with the extensive interpretation we will imbue it with. There is no commitment to the nature of the permanent solution.

Here and there, I believe, it is surely possible to make observations about one phrasing or another, but one should understand the substance in general. One should

understand the significance involved in the timing of the agreement, reached in a reality of a Khomeynist wave that is sweeping the Arab and Muslim world, including the Palestinians. The line dividing people in the Arab world today is who is and who is not in favor of negotiations for a peaceful solution, regardless of anything that took place in the past. It is about time not to live in the past, but rather in the present, and look forward to the future. Every move involves risks, but it is necessary to remember which agreements are reversible [last word in English] and which are not. Every agreement that concerns an arrangement with the Palestinians on the establishment of the transitional period—the interim arrangement, autonomy—is then subject to change if it is violated significantly. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] exists. It is part of the agreement, which could not be the case in an agreement with an Arab country, when a withdrawal is on the line.

Therefore, I believe that the right path and the right priority was chosen. Let me add that we also relied on Palestinians who are not residents of the territories. For a long while, I believed that only the Palestinians from among the residents of the territories might be able to be strong enough, might be able to pull enough weight, but after more than a year of negotiations I reached the conclusion that they were incapable of this. They did not reach Madrid at the time without a decision in Tunis, nor did they act without faxes and telephone calls from Tunis. This may not be pleasant, but it is a fact. Whoever wants to ignore facts, they are welcome to do so. But those who want to promote peace and the beginning of the solution cannot ignore this. Therefore, the dialogue was with Palestinians who are not necessarily residents of the territories, but the signing of the agreement will be between the delegations, in line with the Madrid conference format.

I do not want to take issue with anybody or anything today. I believe that the road is correct. I believe that the move is correct. It is not easy. Any change, any solution, also involves risk, but the time has come to take risks for the sake of peace, of a solution. I believe that the agreement will be signed and implemented. It will take time. We are talking about a declaration of principles, about minutes [last word in English] to the declaration of principles, as well as several addenda, all of which still require negotiations. To implement matters, we need to hold negotiations on the substance of the so-called autonomy or interim arrangement and on the composition and powers of the council which will administer it. I would say that this agreement is divided into two, as follows:

The first stage to be implemented is Gaza, with the settlements remaining there, as well as the IDF, in defense of the settlements. The IDF will withdraw from certain places, but will remain to safeguard the settlements and Israelis, as well as our borders. The first stage includes Jericho, provided that it serves as a seat for the body which will handle what the Americans call the early empowerment [last two words in English], the issue of self- administration. This is the condition for Jericho First, and I prefer to have this arrangement there, farther away from Jerusalem, rather than in any place near Jerusalem.

I am an advocate of the Alon Plan. Anybody familiar with it knows that it stipulates that in the permanent arrangement, too, Jericho would be connected to Jordan by means of a corridor. I have not deviated from my personal commitment to the principles of the Alon Plan. I am telling you, at this stage and in the future a partial withdrawal in Gaza is better than the evacuation of the Golan Heights. Therefore, we face a rare opportunity. True, from the strategic point of view, Syria poses a greater problem than the problem with the Palestinians. However, a solution of the latter means solving the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Although it is not the only one, it is the main focus of the conflict. Hence, what was agreed on in Oslo and what will be presented and signed in Washington—I hope and believe it will be so—is a great step forward in promoting Israel toward peace with all our neighboring countries, first and foremost with the Palestinians.

Observations will be made and criticism will be leveled. There will be talk about this or that clause and about this or that difficulty. Great moves cannot be done without difficulties and without taking reasonable risks. I will not go into any more details, and I do not care what the Likud and the opposition say. We must tell the people. We promised to promote the making of peace. We said we would go for an interim arrangement with the Palestinians, without harming Jewish settlements and security and without making any commitment with regard to the permanent arrangement. Also, we said before the elections that we do not believe in Greater Israel. I do not believe in the right of the Israeli people over all Eretz Yisra'el. I do not want, and I said as much time and again during the election campaign, to annex 1.8 to 2 million Palestinians and to turn the State of Israel into a binational state.

However, that is not the issue now. This is our long-term policy. The issue now is the implementation of an interim arrangement for a period of five years. We inherited it through the Camp David accords and the letter of invitation to the Madrid Conference.

And we are making progress toward the making of peace. We are not just talking about peace, but making it. Therefore, I think that what has been agreed is an achievement. I would like to congratulate Shim'on for what he has done. We worked in cooperation. I think we are on the verge of a great opportunity. Moreover, I estimate that if the agreement is definitely signed and begins to be implemented, it will bring repercussions and will provide us with greater maneuvering room in our contacts with the others. After all, our agreement with the Palestinians is not linked or contingent on any conditions with any other Arab partner. It is not like the peace treaty with Egypt, which was linked to the autonomy agreement. This agreement is not linked to Syria, Lebanon, or Jordan and allows us maneuvering room with them.

This is the way things are. Of course, there will be attempts to scare people off, as was the case when we pulled out of Lebanon. Similar attempts will be made now. Who will make them? Those who set the precedent, whereby down to the last square centimeter must be evacuated, all Israeli presence must be uprooted, and Yamit must be demolished in exchange for peace. If there is hypocrisy in the world, the Likud personifies it today. It is hypocrisy incarnate when their people berate an agreement that does not entail the uprooting or harming of even one settlement and that does not yet cede even one square centimenter. Therein lies the difference.

This is how things stand at this point. I propose that all of us believe in our way and our commitment and talk less, seeing that I will not go into any more detail on specific clauses prior to the cabinet session.

Netanyahu: Government Broke Promises

TA3008175993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the government did not compromise on Israel's security, nor on the unity of Jerusalem in the understandings that it reached with the PLO. He was speaking in the Knesset in reply to motions for the agenda.

Likud opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu said the understanding would create a mini-Libya in Jericho and a mini-Tehran in Gaza. Jack Katzenell has details:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, in an impassioned speech, said the government had broken its election promises to the Israeli public. He warned that the understandings reached by Shim'on Peres with the PLO would lead to a PLO state that would then serve as a base for the destruction of Israel. Netanyahu rejected Shim'on Peres' claim that the understandings are in accordance with the Camp David agreements.

[Netanyahu] The Camp David accords have a limited police with limited functions. What we have here is not only an unlimited police, but a specific stipulation in the agreements that the Palestinians—namely, the PLO terrorists—will also be responsible for security functions. This is a direct breach of Camp David, as is the provision of control of public lands, as is the whole current of things that is leading to one thing: PLO statehood right next to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. If you think that creating a mini-Libya in Jericho and a mini-Tehran in Gaza is going to lead to peace, then you're not living in the Middle East.

[Katzenell] In Netanyahu's view, the PLO was on the verge of collapse, but Israel breathed new life into it by giving it a base from which to proceed to destroy Israel by stages. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Media Highlight, Comment on Points of Agreement

'Right of Return' Said on Table

TA3108064193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Studio discussion between Mikha Friedman, Ya'el Dan and Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] Most of the substantive details about the contents of the document have already leaked out over the past few days and this morning. With the full text here before us—thanks to the YEDI'OT AHARONOT, which published the document this morning—we can point to Israel's main concessions in this new document.

[Beck] There is a series of concessions beyond the withdrawal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho areas. Practically speaking, two months after signing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement at the bilateral negotiations, the IDF will begin to withdraw and redeploy in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region. The withdrawal itself is supposed to take four months. In addition to this, there is the matter of the displaced Palestinians. For the first time, Israel is prepared to discuss the right of return for refugees displaced in the 1967 war. As for the issue of Jerusalem, the document stipulates that this issue will be discussed as part of the permanent arrangement.

[Friedman] Going back to the issue of the displaced Palestinians, the third clause of the first addendum stipulates that the future status of displaced Palestinians who were on the registrar on 4 June 1967 will not be affected by their inability to participate in the elections process because of practical reasons. That is a very delicate phrasing, which attributes the inability of other displaced Palestinians to participate in the process to technical reasons but does not preclude their possible participation in the future. In other words, the return of the other Palestinians remains an open issue to be discussed at a later stage of the negotiations.

[Beck] Yes, and in this respect, we noted a series of concessions, which were described as far reaching by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. Nevertheless, one could say that the ministers were in a euphoric mood when they left the cabinet session. [passage omitted]

Health Minister Explains Clauses

TA3108085693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Hayim Ramon by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] Reviewing the full text of the agreement with the Palestinians published today by YEDI'OT AHARONOT, one sentence referring to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and its just demands stands out. This addition did not appear in the

Camp David accords. What are those just demands that have not yet been addressed or accepted by the Israeli Government?

[Ramon] The other side has demands, some of which may definitely be considered just. That is why we are negotiating. We will accept whatever we consider just. I will give you an example: If the Palestinians want to rule over and assume control of Gaza, we do not only consider it a just demand, but we think it is compatible with a clear Israeli interest that Gaza should not be an integral part of Eretz Yisra'el and that we should not annex 1 million Palestinians living there who jeopardize our security and pose an intolerable security, economic, and social burden on us. This is an example of a just demand. We will not accept demands which we consider unjust, and those refer mainly to security. Any demand that contradicts Israel's security interest, both in the interim stage and definitely in the permanent stage, will be unacceptable to us. We will reject any demand that conflicts with the personal safety of the settlers and every Israeli citizen and their ability to move freely in all areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza during the interim period. @ We, too, have just demands, and the outcome of negotiations is that every side accepts the just demands of the other side.

[Dan] Two Israeli concessions stand out: first, returning the displaced people of 1967 and second, that Jerusalem will in future be subject to negotiation. How do you defend these two concessions?

[Ramon] There has been no change in the status of the displaced persons of 1967. The Palestinian side wanted to make sure that these people are not adversely affected by the fact that they will not participate in the elections. We said that fact would have neither positive nor negative effect on the displaced persons.

[Friedman] With all due respect, Minister Ramon, I think you are wrong. You are talking about displaced persons prior to 4 June 1967.

[Ramon] I am talking about 4 June 1967.

[Friedman] But Ya'el asked you about giving entry permits to people who were displaced from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967.

[Ramon] I am talking about 1967. This clause, the second clause, is a literal quote from the clause in the Camp David accords referring to the displaced persons. If I may, I would like to quote Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein who said that this clause is included in the Camp David accords. He said even back then that it would have been better had that clause had not been born, but the fact remains that it was engendered in the Camp David accords. We are now referring to it in the sense that there will be no change in the status of these people as a result of the elections. The Palestinian side feared that because they would not be participating in the elections, Israel would say their status had changed. As for Jerusalem, this is purely a matter of semantics. Could anybody really conceive of the Palestinian side not raising the issue of Jerusalem when the time of the permanent arrangement comes?

[Friedman] As part of its just demands?

[Ramon] As part of its demands, as it sees them. As far as we are concerned, this is not a just demand and we will reject it. Our position is that Jerusalem will remain united under Israel's sovereignty. It goes without saying that the other side will raise such a demand, but this is just a matter of semantics. [passage omitted]

IDF Recommends Phased Withdrawal From Gaza, Jericho

TA3108110693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Aug 93 p 4

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Shin Bet are awaiting the political resolutions to decide on the nature of their pullout and redeployment in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. According to senior Army sources, the IDF's recommendation is that the withdrawal be carried out in stages.

According to these sources, "the IDF will have no problem dealing with the new deployment." In the first stage and until it is proven that the PLO can enforce its authority on the entire population in the areas to be vacated, the IDF will leave behind outposts and observation points.

A senior Army source last night told DAVAR: "In the first stage, the IDF must leave behind a sufficient number of outposts and observation points to prevent the creation of a hornet's nest in the Gaza Strip. A phased IDF withdrawal would enable the PLO to prove its ability to run a self-government in the territories and to stop the intifadah."

Another source in the Southern Command said last night: "The IDF and the Shin Bet will obviously have to keep their finger on the trigger by means of outposts, patrols, and observation points. A pullout from Gaza could be an irreversible process, and that is why it must be conducted in stages. If we get the order, the IDF and the Shin Bet can carry it out speedily."

Labor Secretary Says Israeli Forces To Protect 'Arafat

TA3008152393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili has said that Israel's security forces will protect PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in the framework of the self-government in the territories. In an interview with a Jewish radio station in France, Zvili said that 'Arafat is the only recognized political leader of the Palestinians. If he feels the need to live in

Jericho, there is no reason to object to it. Israel will try to strengthen moderate Palestinians in the territories to prevent Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from taking over, Zvili added.

Zvili Claims 'Misquoted'

TA3008194293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Labor Party Secretary Nisim Zvili says Israeli security forces will protect PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the framework of self-rule in the territories. Zvili reportedly told a Jewish radio station in France that if 'Arafat wanted to live in Jericho he could see no reason to object. But, Zvili later told reporter Jack Katzenell he had been misquoted.

[Begin recording] [Zvili] I said that there is a certain possibility, I don't know in what period of time, that 'Arafat will decide to come and settle down in Jericho. If it will be the case, because the Israeli Army is responsible for the overall security of the region, for the roads, for the region and all, they will be also responsible for his security.

[Katzenell] As you heard, the Likud opposition has been saying that by this understanding the PLO will be moving not just offices to Jericho and Gaza but headquarters. And we already heard from a report this evening that the Palestinians are contemplating bringing in members of the Palestine Liberation Army who were expelled from Lebanon in 1982.

[Zvili] It is a completely wrong direction and a wrong idea or position. There is no way in which the PLO army, if it exists at all, will take place in the territories. It is not our intention, it is not going to happen. We are not going to allow it.

[Katzenell] Do you not feel that by your statement you somehow compromised the prime minister and Foreign Minister Peres at a rather critical time, when they are trying get their plan accepted by the nation?

[Zvili] You know, it seems to me, it might be. This is why I preferred that this remark that I have done in the response to the question should be very limited to the certain situation that can happen in the future. [end recording]

Shamir Calls on People To Rebel Against Agreement

TA3008202593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening that everything possible must be done to thwart the agreement with the Palestinians, including instigating the people to rebel against forsaking a vast part of our land. He described the agreement as a dangerous plot and an abortive plan. The current difficulties, Yitzhaq Shamir added, were brought about by Jews who were given the power to do harm by the democratic laws in Israel. As for the talk about a civil war, Shamir said there should be no civil war but that the reasons leading to it must be removed. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that Shamir was speaking in the settlement of Sha'arey Tiqva in Samaria, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this evening.

Right-Wingers Demonstrate Near Rabin's Office

TA3008202793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The right-wing supporters who staged a demonstration this evening near the Prime Minister's Office [to protest the agreement with the PLO on Gaza-Jericho First] were dispersed and left the site. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that some 4,000 demonstrators blocked two roads leading to the government offices with their bodies and set tires on fire. The police arrested several demonstrators who went on a rampage. Two policemen who were pelted with stones by the demonstrators required medical treatment.

Poll: 53 Percent Favor Gaza-Jericho First Plan

TA3008175793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Aug 93 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Are you for or against the autonomy plan "in Gaza and Jericho first?" In favor—53 percent, against—45 percent, no opinion—2 percent.

It is interesting to note that the respondents' opinion about the autonomy plan and their party affiliation did not entirely coincide: 29 percent of those who described themselves Labor supporters objected to the plan. In contrast, 30 percent of Likud supporters and 40 percent of Tzomet supporters said they were in favor of the autonomy plan.

Some 523 respondents who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population of Israel (excluding kibbutzim) were interviewed for this poll yesterday. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Local Arab Official on Popular Support for Agreement

TA3108090493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The chairman of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils said that more than 90 percent of Israel's Arab citizens support the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

In an interview with our correspondent Yo'el Dar, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn said that in his estimate, this was an interim accord, adding that there was no longer any alternative other than launching direct negotiations with the PLO.

Al-Majali on Arab Reconciliation, Peace Process

JN2808131393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Aug 93 pp 1, 44

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that Jordan has been, and still is, extending a hand to all Arab brothers for reconciliation, and is calling for Arab solidarity and cohesion.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y, the prime minister warned against the appalling dangers threatening the Arab area, stressing that unless the Arab countries close their ranks, they will face something that they do not wish to face, and everyone will be harmed. Therefore, Jordan calls for solidarity, dialogue, and cooperation among the Arabs to avoid what would be against their interests.

Dr. al-Majali added: The events that took place in the Gulf destroyed inter-Arab relations and greatly influenced the Arab system. The region is now passing through a stage similar to that following World War I. A new regional order will be imposed on the region in such a way that all will be harmed unless Arab solidarity is restored.

Answering a question on the danger of the mass depopulation of Palestinians from the occupied territories to Jordan, transfer [preceding word in English] and whether this danger is still there, the prime minister said: This threat has always been there, but the difference is in probabilities. What was a high probability at a certain stage is now less probable. I say this because when we attended Madrid conference, the Western understanding of the Palestine question and the Palestinian people was wrong. The Palestinians have been viewed as terrorists, and Palestine as the promised land for the Jews. Violence, force, and several other means were used to achieve this objective, but this idea was challenged. When solutions for the Palestinian question were discussed, some people used to say: Let the Palestinians have a state in Jordan. We all remember what Shamir, Sharon, and other extremists used to say: Jordan is the alternative homeland for the Palestinian people. The Madrid conference started changing this talk, and the first signs of the Palestinian entity as a civilized entity began to appear. The conference has emphasized the Jordanian entity as a civilized entity. Therefore, Jordan and Palestine were separated in the international mind, and a radical change has taken place in the Western mind.

Dr. al-Majali added: In Washington, the previous Israeli leadership stuck to the ideas of a Greater Israel, and said there was no such thing as a Palestinian people. This leadership was prepared to negotiate with Jordan on the Jordanians from Palestinian origin, as Turkey negotiates with Germany on the Turkish minority in Germany. This was totally rejected, and the Palestinian-Israeli track was created. We rejected anything that obstructs recognition of the Palestinian independence and right. When these concepts were entrenched, the idea of alternative homeland was finished. When we worked out a clear agenda with Israel, a main point in that agenda was that Israel should not carry out any act that harms the Jordanian security in any way.

The prime minister said: We had said that the alternative homeland died, and we recently said that the idea was buried, and we hope it will never rise again.

Dr. al-Majali reiterated Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive settlement, and said: Jordan, which reached an agenda that includes clear bases, has stopped moving further until all other tracks, particularly the Palestinian track move toward success in order to guarantee together all Palestinian and Arab rights. Jordan only believes in a comprehensive solution, and no Arab parties believe in a separate solution.

Palestinian-Israeli Deal on Gaza, Jericho Viewed

'Grave Mistake' Seen

JN3108063893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Aug 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Process of Coordination in the Peace Process"]

[Text] Whether we like it or not, a grave mistake has been made, not in the process of coordination among Arab parties to the peace process only, but also in the entire peace process. Perhaps it is saddening for any Arab party to discover that one or more Arab parties have done what should not have been done. If a fateful issue does not tolerate even a minor mistake, the results of a grave mistake will be disastrous.

Now that it is clear that a mistake has been made, it is not enough just to talk about the need for a maximum degree of coordination. We in Jordan have spoken a great deal about coordination and showed concern for it. Moreover, we were driven to claim there was full coordination among the brothers. However, we later discovered that not all Arab parties share the same concept of coordination. Some of us understand coordination as nothing more than informing other parties about decisions. In fact, it is essential and fundamental in the peace process that we all be in the picture about what is happening. No party to the negotiations should suddenly discover that our common enemy knows more than we do, and that ideas are being raised, discussed, and virtually agreed upon, while other parties know nothing about them.

What is even more serious is for any of the parties to the peace process to feel that what it has always feared has taken place, in the sense that another party has reached a separate solution. This is as if all warnings, pledges, and statements are nothing but nonbinding talk.

Our enemy is a master of tricks and deception. It is willing to undermine even the minimum level of inter-Arab coordination. It has sought and is seeking to effect a gap in the wall of this coordination. We fear that not all Arabs realize such gap is greater than we believe, that it is wide enough to let one separate solution pass through it, to be followed by other solutions. Then, we will all fall victim to the illusion that we have obtained something, when we have, in fact, obtained nothing but a new and a hard blow to the brotherly ties and to the dream of a just settlement. Then, we will know that have sustained another political defeat.

'Utmost Caution' With Israel Urged

JN3108071193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Beyond Euphoria: Caution"]

[Text] Just as the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) gave their peoples strong signs that they are only hours away from signing an agreement on the Jericho- Gaza first option, voices of suspicion and doubt began to reverberate in both camps. Considering the huge implications that the reported accord would have on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem in particular, these doubts should, at least, be expected.

What is completely unacceptable, though, is the unjustified reactions of extremists among the Palestinian and Israeli opposition circles.

On Monday, Ahmad Jibril, leader of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, called for the assassination of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as a "traitor." His threats can only be taken seriously but above all they should be condemned by Palestinians who support and oppose the Gaza-Jericho option alike. The ongoing debate among the PLO on the viability of this option should not become the launchpad for a vicious circle of divisions and internecine fighting within the Palestinian camp. Voices opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement should be expressed in a democratic, peaceful and healthy way. Only then will they be respected, appreciated and listened to.

Despite the shortcomings of the proposed agreement between Israel and the PLO, it redirects the Arab-Israeli peace talks to their right path: The Palestinian problem, the core of the conflict in the Middle East. That on its own is an achievement.

The Gaza-Jericho option, as presented by the PLO, would constitute the first step towards a final solution to the Palestinian problem. It would be the beginning of a long process that Palestinians insist should end with the regaining of the Palestinian national rights, including the establishment of a Palestinian state.

That said, the focus of the internal Palestinian debate at this point should be the viability of the option and the attainment of guarantees that this initial phase of the agreement would not prejudice the final outcome of the negotiations: An Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and achieving for the Palestinians the right to self-determination.

That Jericho would house Palestinian institutions should not mean that the quest for Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state can be abandoned. That Palestinian self-rule is starting in Gaza should not mean that regaining control of the West Bank is left out from the list of the PLO's top priorities.

The initial euphoria over gaining control over parts of the occupied territories should not, above all, prevent the PLO from carefully assessing the risks that lie in returning to Gaza. There are necessary preconditions that must be fulfilled in order to enable the PLO to run the Strip. Economic, social and political considerations should not be overlooked.

The PLO should approach the coming crucial stage of negotiations with Israel with utmost caution. It cannot afford failure nor can its constituency. The Gaza-Jericho option should work as a prelude towards realising all the political rights of the Palestinians. It should not become a failure which Israel can cite eventually to deny the PLO, and the Palestinians in general, their legitimate aspirations and right for statehood over their own land.

Support for Palestinians Stressed

JN3108074893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Aug 93 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "We Support the Independent Palestinian Decisionmaking"]

[Text] Amid political changes that seem to be of extreme importance, a new round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks is scheduled to be held in Washington today. This round is expected to witness a breakthrough on the Palestinian-Israeli track after it has surfaced that the Israeli Government and the PLO have arrived at a declaration of principles on the transitional phase in the occupied Arab territories.

This agreement was concluded in secret diplomacy outside the declared negotiations channel of the ongoing peace process. It has surprised many observers and those who follow developments in the Middle East negotiations. In Jordan, however, based on our firm and principled support for the brother Palestinians, we have declared support for independent Palestinian decisions, placing the supreme pan-Arab interests above all other considerations.

While more developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations are expected within the next few days, Jordan will definitely continue to support its brother Palestinians, offer them advice, and back every step or position which the brother Palestinians believe is

in their national interest. This is in the context of a firm Jordanian tradition of supporting its brothers and Arab causes.

We in Jordan and the Palestinian side have gone to the negotiations together. We went to the Madrid conference 22 months ago in a unified delegation for which we provided a political umbrella. Throughout the past months of negotiations and the past 10 rounds of talks, we determinedly supported our brothers. In fact, we insisted that progress be made on the Palestinian track before we move one step ahead on our own track.

Today, as we see the early signs of a breakthrough on the Palestinian-Israeli track and witness this historic juncture in the life of the Palestine question, we invoke all Jordan's historic stands in support of the Palestine question, and reassert our support for any Palestinian decisions that they deem acceptable.

King Hails UAE Leader's Call for Reconciliation

JN2908185993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that, regarding Jerusalem, we will always be the carriers of the message of the revolution, whose great shaykh lies under the sacred soil of Jerusalem and at whose holy al-Aqsa Mosque gate his son 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, founder of the kingdom, was martyred.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, his majesty welcomed the call of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, to clear the Arab atmosphere and renounce differences to restore Arab solidarity on new bases.

Asked by the news agency, His Majesty King Husayn said: Jerusalem has always been my main concern, just as it was for my fathers and grandfathers. Jerusalem is the first of the two qiblas and the object of love for Muslims throughout the world. It is also the place where the prophet ascended to the throne. We are aware of the dangers targeting it, as well as the attempts to obliterate its Arab Islamic identity. This calls us to shoulder our responsibilities toward it out of loyalty to our tolerant beliefs, to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, and to the blood of our righteous martyrs who fell at its gates and walls, and in order to carry out our pan-Arab and human duties.

His majesty also stressed that just as free people expect us to do, we will continue to carry the message of the revolution, whose great shaykh lies under the soil of Jerusalem and at whose holy al-Aqsa Mosque gate his son, 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, the founder of the kingdom, was martyred.

Replying to a question on a statement to the press by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, in which his highness called for clearing the Arab atmosphere and renouncing differences among the brothers through the spirit of brotherhood and tolerance to restore effective Arab solidarity on new bases, His Majesty King Husayn said: Such a responsible position is expected from His Highness brother Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan. He has always been one of the Arab leaders who have made every effort for the sake of the nation's solidarity and unity, and he has never been prevented from seeing the higher Arab interests by any crisis.

His majesty stressed that all those who are eager to save the current Arab situation from its weakness and fragmentation will greatly appreciate any spirit of tolerance and concern about the nation's status, which His Highness Shaykh Zayid is eager to see.

King Confers With Syria's al-Asad 28 Aug

JN2808181593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] This evening, His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone conversation with his brother His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The two leaders exchanged views on current Arab issues.

Layth Shubaylat Announces Retirement From Politics

JN2908073793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Aug 93 p 1, 3

[By Wafa' 'Amr—"Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—Leading independent Islamist politician and former deputy Layth Shubaylat announced Saturday he was quitting political life to protest what he described as government's undemocratic practices and political parties' lack of credibility.

In a move reflecting his admission to failure in achieving political and economic reforms and his disappointment with official and popular political attitudes, Mr. Shubaylat said he decided to withdraw from the political scene and return to practising his engineering profession.

"I announce today that I have sufficed with 11 years of political activity ... and I request your permission to withdraw to practise my profession after long break," he said in a brief statment.

Mr. Shubaylat said from now on he would only participate in social and culturai events only.

Despite previous threats to resign from political life, his move surprised many politicians who criticised him for abandoning the political battle at a crucial time of the country's history.

But the controversial Shubaylat, who refused to speak to reporters following his decision, felt he was let down by his constituency and by political groups who remained silent and unmoved to counter what he saw as serious violations of democracy on the part of the government.

Mr. Shubaylat's friends said he felt he was fighting a fierce battle against "undemocratic forces" alone. "He had lost faith in political groups and individuals who joined him in his opposition of government's undemocratic practices...they retreated when their own principles were put to the test," one of Mr. Shubaylat's close associates said.

"Political groups incite Shubaylat to lead the opposition but in the end he emerges a lonely voice," he said. "He felt he was working alone without response from either the people or the political groups."

Mr. Shubaylat enjoys popularity and wide-spread respect, specially among middle-class professionals. He has always been a vocal advocate of human rights and democratisation, and an outspoken critic of the government's economic and political policies.

Long before liberalisation was introduced in Jordan in 1989, Mr. Shubaylat was among the very few who publicly challenged the government's policies and insisted on fighting corruption of former government officials.

Last year he was sentenced to 20 years in jail on charges that he belonged to an illegal Islamic political group called "Shabab al-Nafeer," which aims at toppling the regime, and for the acquisition of illegal automatic weapons and explosives.

Days after the trial His Majesty King Husayn issued a general pardon which included Layth Shubaylat, a move political observers considered as an attempt to defuse growing internal tensions in protest against Mr. Shubaylat's trial.

Mr. Shubaylat condemned the trial and accused the government of faking it in order to silence him.

"At the same time last year, there were attempts to liquidate and assassinate my life and my reputation through the so-called 'al- Nafeer' case," Mr. Shubaylat said in his statement. "The case revealed to me and to others the degree of official 'democratic' intentions in the country and it simultaneously confirmed to me and to my family the 'credibility' of political groups from the right and the left spectrum in defending human rights."

He implicitly criticised political groups for lacking political agendas and for not succeeding in representing people's aspirations. He said if they did not carry out their responsibilities, they would join the government in taking the blame for working against the interests of the country.

He criticised the government's decision to change the voting rules without parliament's approval, and had decided, before quitting yesterday, to take government to court for what he considered the unconstitutional and undemocratic move of dissolving Parliament and issuing a provisional election law in the absence of Parliament.

"With pain and bitterness I say that the new provisional law adds important negativity to other negative elements..." he said in his statement."

Some political observers criticised Mr. Shubaylat's shortness of breath in fighting the battle for democracy.

"The battle for democracy is a real battle, and democracy is a very long and painful process. Thus patience is needed," said a noted political observer who preferred anonymity.

Many political observers viewed the Muslim Brotherhood's decision to participate in the Nov. 8 elections despite previous threats to boycott as a political tactic which offered them credibility with the regime and their constituencies.

Leading brotherhood figure 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Akur said Mr. Shubaylat should have been more patient before taking his decision.

"We are in an unfortunate situation now, but we feel the worst has still not come and the efforts of an important, political player like Shubaylat is needed in the near future," Mr. 'Akur said.

Leader of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party Tayseer al- Zibri, whose group also opposed the new provisional election law, said: "We also have many reservations on events in the country, but we cannot abandon the political arena for the enemies of democracy. I hope Shubaylat's decision is a summer cloud, we hope for his return."

Despite wide-spread support for Mr. Shubaylat's ideas and principles, a political figure said: "There is no idealism in politics. It is a down-to-earth process; and idealists usually are forgotten. We hope this would make Shubaylat retract his decisioin."

Shubaylat Denounces Dissolution of House

JN2708114393 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Aug 93 p 2

[Interview with Layth Shubaylat, former independent Islamic member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, by correspondent Bassam al-Baddarin—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Baddarin] What is your position on the dissolution of the House of Representatives, and what are the political repercussions of the dissolution?

[Shubaylat] The dissolution is the last nail in the coffin of democracy, which exists only in our imagination. Although this decision is seemingly based on a constitutional article, it is unconstitutional for the following reasons:

1. No reason for the dissolution has been given. The Constitution indirectly stipulates that a reason must be given. The Constitution deems it impermissible to twice

dissolve the House of Representatives for the same reason. In other words, it is both logically and constitutionally imperative to give a reason for the dissolution. We do not know why the House was dissolved in the past. Therefore, dissolving the House without a reason is a game rather than a political decision.

2. Nevertheless, official statements after the dissolution insist that the dissolution was a routine procedure. This violates a constitutional article which stipulates that the House of Representatives has a four-year term, and that the elections should be held within the four months preceding the end of its term. According to the Constitution, if the elections are not held at the end of the term, the existing House should remain in power until a new House is elected. Evidently, this means that the House should remain in power. Who guarantees elections will not be postponed due to some emergency?

3. Based on the above, the dissolution of the House is an arbitrary exercise of power even if it is based on a constitutional point because the interior minister who signed the royal decree [as published] had openly voiced his intention to amend the election law. Thus, the minister and the government wanted to keep the House out of the picture to arbitrarily exploit the constitutional point which gives the cabinet the right to issue a provisional law in matters requiring necessary measures that cannot brook delay.

But I believe that the minister has placed himself and his government in a real trap because any supreme court can easily see that there were no "necessary measures that could not brook delay." Thus, the government itself created the emergency situation that necessitated the dissolution of the House while announcing at the same time its intention to change the law.

[Al-Baddarin] What is the aim of the meetings of deputies currently being held at your office?

[Shubaylat] These meetings are now concentrating on the Election Law, which is the most difficult point. We are expected to succeed in taking the issue to court if the amendment becomes a fact. A majority of the deputies has issued a statement denouncing the dissolution.

[Al-Baddarin] What do you see happening now?

[Shubaylat] We have various options. We could go to court but we are seriously considering a mass boycott of the elections to pull the rug out from under the feet of the government which is staging these theatrics, not to appease the people but to polish Jordan's image abroad.

[Al-Baddarin) Are you still calling for amending the Constitution, including the king's powers?

[Shubaylat] Of course, and I will continue to do so. Look what happened to us. What kind of democracy is it when the first pillar of the government is not respected? The deputies can easily be disposed of, and the House of Representatives is dissolved without the knowledge of its speaker, who hears the news on the radio.

[Al-Baddarin] Is it true that you were summoned to the [Royal] Court after the pro-Iraq demonstration and after the criticism you leveled in the AL-BA'TH newspaper?

[Shubaylat] Yes, I was summoned the day the newspaper issue in which my article was written appeared.

[Al-Baddarin] What happened?

[Shubaylat] I was questioned on what I said, what I had written.

[Al-Baddarin] And then?

[Shubaylat] These things are not fit for publication.

[Al-Baddarin] Some claimed that in an interview with a weekly newspaper, you challenged the upper echelons [maqamat 'ulya].

[Shubaylat] I thank God because he honored me making me bold, but God forbid that I am impertinent or insulting. What happened was that your sister newspaper's [not further identified] headline was unintentionally erroneous, as the chief editor told me. The text of the interview was different from the headline.

[Al-Baddarin] Will you run for election once again in the third district of Amman if the one-man, one-vote principle is approved?

[Shubaylat] If the mass boycott decision is not implemented, I will run, and I believe that the change in the law will not affect my chances. No doubt the number of votes will be reduced but then everybody's votes will be reduced.

[Al-Baddarin] Do you think that you were impulsive when you criticized the Jordanian leadership's stand on Iraq recently?

[Shubaylat] No, no, these were clear and frank utterances which I have been repeating since Jordan adopted its stand after Iraq entered Kuwait. The Jordanian stand began to change after the king's first visit to the United States and after announcing commitment to UN Security Council resolutions. it went so far as to stage military maneuvers with the Americans on the Iraqi border in a way that does not befit the nation or its aspirations.

[Al-Baddarin] Do you expect the amendment will go forward?

[Shubaylat] I think that the amendment will compel the government to enter a legal battle which clearly will not be in its favor unless there is a confrontation, God forbid, which we believe is ruled out.

[Al-Baddarin] You look active these days, writing to officials of the State and the regime. What are you writing about?

[Shubaylat] If you mean the case of the Mu'tah University and the Islamic Liberation Army detainees, which is a genuine example of the government's arbitrariness, I

have sent memos to those who I thought would do something in terms of securing defense rights for these people whose rights have been violated.

Concerning my memos to Mudar Badran and Ahmad 'Ubaydat [former prime ministers], I believe that judging by their statements and being pillars of the regime both from the political and security viewpoints, they can advise the regime that only the people can protect it after God, that violating the human rights of these people will eventually shake the regime. I appealed to them to use their good offices and do something to affirm human rights.

[Al-Baddarin] They want you to keep silent, will you?

[Shubaylat] My answer to you will be a practical and not a verbal one. I have never been more active and effective in my whole political career, but the official and semi-official media try to ignore me. Unfortunately, these media are the ones on which the people rely.

They had expected that by dealing a blow to me, my activities would cease. However, each of my activities since our imprisonment showed that the security authorities are more aware than most of their weakness.

IAF Said No 'Substitute' for Muslim Brotherhood

JN2908100793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Aug p 12

[Interview with Hamzah Mansur, assistant secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, IAF, by Nayif al-Muhaysin in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Muhaysin] Will the IAF replace the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Mansur] The Muslim Brotherhood will remain. The IAF is not a substitute for or an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood. It is a political formula that is intended to be the broader framework for all members, whether they are affiliated with the Muslim Brothers, the other societies, or the independents. It is only natural that at this stage the members of the Mulsim Brotherhood will enjoy a prominent position within the IAF. However, the IAF aspires to form a general assembly of more than 100,000 members. Then, the Muslim Brotherhood will not hold sway over the IAF. What is important is that the principles, objectives, and methods of the IAF are Islamic, irrespective of the background of its decisionmakers. As a Front member, I do not feel that IAF members are classified based on their background. Every issue is discussed; the only way to reach a decision is by an exchange of views.

[Al-Muhaysin] Do you support government financing of parties?

[Mansur] I believe party financing should come first from within the party, because party activities should be based on sacrifices. However, no harm will be done if the government budget allocates financial support for the parties, in accordance with sound yardsticks having to do, for example, with the number of the general assembly members. Such financial support should be viewed as a right of the parties, not as a bribe. When the parties assume their responsibilities, they will be assuming some of the burdens on behalf of the government.

[Al-Muhaysin] What do you have to say about the Election Law amendment?

[Mansur] I do not hide the fact that I am sad about the amendment of the law, at this time. I do not claim the previous law was exemplary. But, I firmly believe that the House of Representatives is the instrument that should implement such an amendment. The government could have submitted such an amendment during the past four years. I fear that this amendment will tarnish our democratic march.

[Al-Muhaysin] Do you believe the Election Law amendment will hurt the IAF?

[Mansur] There is no doubt that the amendment will have a negative impact. But, as the IAF relies on God and the faithful and mature people, it will manage to ward off many of the negative points and will win a number of seats in the next House of Representatives, with which it will be satisfied.[passage omitted]

Junblatt: Al-Asad Wants Government To Stay

NC3008151693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt has announced that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is sincere and loyal to his allies, wishes to maintain stability in Lebanon, backs the repatriation of the citizens displaced during the civil war, and wants the current Lebanese Government to stay.

Junblatt affirmed that the momentum is being maintained in the process of returning the displaced citizens to their homes. He said the financial resources for this purpose will be found. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Sees Possible Flare-Up in South

NC3008123293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1106 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, 30 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi met today with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and discussed with him the developments in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa'.

Following the meeting, Dallul told MENA that he does not rule out the possibility that Israel would escalate its military operations in south Lebanon as the 11th round of peace talks gets under way in Washington.

Dallul said that Israel has led us to expect that with the start of every fresh round of talks its occupation forces tend to trigger a flare-up on the battlefield in south Lebanon. Israel, he added, uses a whole range of military means and security pretexts to pressure Lebanon and its negotiating team in Washington and raise the stakes at the negotiating table.

The defense minister said: I do not know what new plans the Israeli Government has this time or whether the Rabin Government has come to understand that its problem in the Galilee is not one of security, but mainly politics. Dallul called for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Dallul expressed concern over possible Israeli action during the next round of talks between Lebanon and Israel. Lebanon, he said, utterly rejects the conditions set by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for withdrawal from Lebanon.

Instead of Rabin calling for the disarmament of Hizballah and the Lebanese resistance ahead of withdrawal, he should remove the reason for the resistance, which is Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories, the Lebanese defense minister said. He added that Israel should withdraw first. With its withdrawal, the resistance role will end, Dallul said.

The Lebanese defense minister warned of Israel's maneuvers and delaying tactics, confirming the legitimacy of the resistance and its right to continue for as long as Israel occupies Lebanese land.

SLA Kills 1, Captures 3 After Attack in South

NC3008202193 Paris AFP in English 1838 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Aug 30 (AFP)—An anti-Israeli fighter was killed and three others were captured Monday [30 August] by Israel's proxy militia in southern Lebanon, the militia said.

The sources said the guerrilla was killed when a group of fighters attacked a position held by the South Lebanese Army (SLA) militia on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone."

The SLA fired back, killing the fighter, and forces in the security zone then launched an artillery bombardment of nearby hills known to be strongholds of the Iranian-backed Hizballah.

Later Monday the SLA said it intercepted and captured three members of a four-man raiding party from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), which is part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The three, two Palestinians and an Egyptian, surrendered without a struggle, while the fourth managed to escape.

The SLA said it did not know what organisation the dead man belonged to, but the Shiite Amal Militia led by Lebanon's speaker of parliament Nabih Birri claimed responsibility for two earlier raids on SLA positions.

No SLA militiamen were injured in Monday's incidents, the sources said.

Amal Movement Statement on Attacks on SLA Posts

NC3108105293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The Amal Movement announced its responsibility for two operations carried out in the past hour against two South Lebanese Army [SLA] posts in Kafr Falus and Saydun in Jazzin. The statement issued by the Amal Movement said the two attacks left an unspecified number of victims among the SLA ranks.

A source in the SLA said shells and machine-gun fire targeted two posts at dawn, but failed to hit them.

Jordan's Husayn, al-Asad Hold 'Unscheduled' Talks

NC3108101793 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Amman, Aug 31 (AFP)—King Husayn held unscheduled talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on Tuesday [31 August] as Jordan complained it had been kept in the dark by the PLO over the autonomy deal struck with the Israelis.

A senior official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the agreement, approved by the Israeli cabinet early Tuesday, was a "revolutionary development" which had not been submitted to the King for discussion, let alone approval.

The Jordanian government had to learn about the details of the plan "from the media and not from the Palestinian side," the official said.

The king paid an unannounced visit to Damascus on Tuesday to discuss the latest developments.

Jericho, which along with the Gaza Strip would be granted autonomy in the proposal, lies in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, part of Jordan until the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Amman cut its legal and political links with the territory in 1988.

"We are frustrated at the lack of co-ordination between the PLO and Jordan and about the fact that Israel, our common enemy, knew about all the details while we were completely in the dark," he said, recalling that Jordan and the Palestinians had formed a joint delegation at the Middle East peace talks with Israel.

He said that a meeting last week between 'Arafat and King Husayn, which took place after criticism by the king of the lack of coordination between the two sides, "did not shed any light on the situation, as the PLO chief did not put him in the picture about the details of the agreement" which were revealed Sunday and Monday.

The PLO last week "merely informed Jordan of the general outline of the agreement, without going into details.

The official said it was unacceptable that Amman was not consulted by the Palestinians in advance on a plan which will have "direct repercussions" on Jordan.

He repeated fears expressed earlier by Jordanian officials that implementation of the "Gaza-Jericho First" plan would provoke an exodus of refugees across the Allenby Bridge, near Jericho, either through being forced out by the Israelis, who he predicted would retain control of the bridge, or by Palestinian crossing over voluntarily to find jobs.

"In such a scenario, how do we protect ourselves from the risk of an influx and what guarantees will we have that Palestinians crossing the bridge will return to the occupied territories?" he asked.

Israeli Media Reports on Gaza-Jericho Plan Cited

JN3108072293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 31 aug 93

[Text] According to Israeli cabinet ministers, 16 ministers have voted for the proposed [Gaza-Jericho First] agreement, with two abstentions. Israeli radio reports that the cabinet discussions were positive, fruitful, and historic.

Opening the cabinet session, Rabin presented the sequence of the contacts that led up to this agreement, after progress with the Palestinian negotiating delegation had proved impossible. The Israeli prime minister said his government was not obligated to hold a referendum or to go to the polls about the agreement reached with the Palestinians on self-rule based on the Gaza-Jericho First plan.

In statements during a meeting with the government coalition yesterday, carried by Israeli radio, Rabin said his government will not discuss removal of settlements or concede a single inch. The Israeli Government, he added, has a full mandate from the Israelis.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday Israeli was about to recognize the PLO as a step on the road of winding down the bitterest Middle East conflict. Responding to opposition charges that Rabin had duped the Israelis, Peres told a Labor Party meeting that we want to trick neither the Jews nor Palestinians. We want to live with them in peace.

Israeli radio quoted Peres as telling the Knesset last night that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was different from the Camp David accords, which he said were vague on certain aspects of self-rule. The Gaza-Jericho First agreement does not cover Jerusalem, the settlements, or the security areas. The Israeli Government will not talk about the establishment of a Palestinian state with anyone, he said.

Media Reaction to Gaza-Jericho Plan Noted

JN3108102093

[Editorial Report] As of 1000 GMT on 31 August, Syrian media monitored at Jordan Bureau have not been observed to comment on or cite reaction by Syrian officials to reports of an Israeli-Palestinian understanding on the so-called Gaza-Jericho First option. Syrian media have, however, carried extensive factual reports on this topic, quoting liberally from Palestinian and Israeli officials speaking in support of the plan. Syrian media have not been observed to carry or cite statements by groups or individuals speaking in opposition to the plan.

In its 2015 GMT broadcast on 30 August, Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic carries a 12-minute report quoting PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as saying that Israeli withdrawal from a portion of the West Bank is a response to a Palestinian demand made after Israel had shown a readiness to withdraw from the

Gaza Strip. The radio also quotes a statement by 'Arafat in Paris LE MONDE noting that the signing of the Gaza-Jericho First plan is imminent.

Quoted in the same report, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh predicts historic developments in relations between Israel and the Palestinians. 'Abd-Rabbuh is quoted as telling Israeli radio: "We want to open a new chapter in relations. We will do all we can to set up equal and balanced relations between the PLO and the Israeli Government and people." On a possible meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin, 'Abd-Rabbuh is cited as not ruling out such a meeting in the near future, adding that peace requires bold steps. In the same report, 'Abd-Rabbuh is asked if Israel will recognize the PLO. He says: "I can neither confirm nor deny that." He is also quoted as telling an Israeli newspaper that an open meeting will be held soon between two high-level Palestinian and Israeli officials.

The broadcast then presents excerpts from the "text" of an agreement reached between the PLO and Israel over self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Layla Shahid, the PLO representative in Paris, is quoted in the same report commenting on the possibility of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. The Damascus radio report then notes the 30 August special cabinet session of the Israeli Government to consider the Gaza-Jericho plan, following with a report on U.S. President Bill Clinton's favorable reaction to the plan. A U.S. State Department spokesman is then cited as reporting progress toward the announcement of a joint declaration of principles between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The radio then carries statements on the Gaza-Jericho understanding by Israel's Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres.

In its 0415 GMT newscast on 31 August, Damascus radio in Arabic repeats 'Arafat's statements to LE MONDE and also quotes comments by Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi. The report also notes Israeli developments surrounding the understanding.

The Syrian news agency, Damascus SANA in Arabic, reports that Syrian newspapers on 31 August carry front page reports on the Gaza-Jericho plan, with these banner headlines: "Widespread Repercussions to the Gaza-Jericho First Blueprint"; "'Abd-Rabbuh: The Start of New Era"; "Rabin: Settlements, Sovereignty, and Security in Israel's Hands", and "Israeli-Palestinian Agreement in 48 Hours".

AL-BA'TH Affirms 'Fundamentals' of Peace

JN3108063693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Fundamentals of Fair, Comprehensive Peace", AL-BA'TH writes: The 11th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks resumes in Washington today. Leaving aside speculation on how this particular round will fare, the peace process is still all about a fair and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions and the promotion of international legitimacy and law.

The peace process was launched under the specific banner of the recovery of Arab territory and full Arab rights in exchange for full peace. Since ths process began, an aggressive, expansionist Israel has adopted a subversive and intransigent posture, going out of its way to sidetrack the peace process and render it meaningless by refusing to address withdrawal and Arab rights.

Under these circumstances, AL-BA'TH goes on, as the sponsor of the peace process and the most influential superpower, and given the strategic ties it has with Israel, the U.S. Administration should assume its role as a full partner and an honest and impartial broker bound by international law and legitimacy, and force Israel to comply with UN resolutions.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH writes: As the 11th round of the Arab- Israeli talks begins today, it must be pointed out that any short- or long-term success of the peace process will be subject to the implementation of well-known principles, i.e., land for peace and inalienable Arab rights. For this to happen, two things need to be done: The United States must play an effective, specific and honest role, and Israel must make a commitment to UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and submit to international legitimacy.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Junblatt 28 Aug

JN2808162193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 28 Aug (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Walid Junblatt, the Lebanese minister of refugee affairs and head of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], at 1200 today. Talks dealt with Arab and Lebanese issues.

Armenian Industry Minister Comments on Cooperation

JN2908174893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 29 Aug (SANA)—Armenian Industry Minister Ashot Safaryan has lauded Syrian-Armenian relations, citing ties of friendship and cooperation, particularly in economic, industrial, and trade cooperation.

This came at a press conference held at the Armenian Embassy in Damascus, which was attended by the Embassy's charge d'affaires and several newspaper and news agency reporters, on Armenia's participation in the 40th Damascus International Fair.

Safaryan stressed his country's concern for promoting and enhancing economic, trade, and industrial cooperation with Syria and opening new horizons for this cooperation in the interest of both peoples. He pointed

out that Armenia imports light industry products, food commodities, textiles, and fabrics from Syria, and exports industrial machines and chemicals to Syria.

Safaryan reviewed Armenia's economic and industrial situation, pointing out that his visit to Syria is aimed at participating in the inauguration of the fair. The fair is a symbol of friendship between the Syrian and Armenian peoples and a basis for bilateral economic and trade cooperation, he pointed out. This is the first time the Republic of Armenia has participated in this fair.

TV Cooperation Accord Signed With Japanese Agency

JN3008152093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] In the presence of Information Minister Muhammad Salman, a protocol was signed today between the Broadcasting and Television General Directorate [BTGD] and Japan's International Cooperation Agency [ICA].

The signing ceremony was attended by the Japanese consul in Syria and a number of officials from the Information Ministry, the BTGD, and the ICA.

According to the protocol, ICA will provide a loan to the BTGD to improve and strengthen the television transmission network in eastern Syria. The project is scheduled to start in 1994.

The information minister had earlier received the Japanese delegation in the presence of the Japanese consul in Syria and a number of Information Ministry and BTGD officials. The conferees discussed the content of the protocol. The minister stressed the need to strengthen cooperation in all fields between Syria and Japan. The Japanese side expressed a desire to offer all facilities related to education and economic cooperation.

Ministers Meet With Jordanian Trade Minister

JN3008153093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] At 1300 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Dr. Bassam al-Sakit, Jordan's minister of trade and industry. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade.

Dr. al-Sakit conveyed greetings from Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who asked the Jordanian minister to convey similar greetings to al-Majali.

Conversation during the meeting dealt with trade ties between the two fraternal countries.

Afghanistan

Joint Statement on Tajik-Afghan Leaders' Meeting

LD3008193393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Joint statement by the heads of states of the ISA [Islamic State of Afghanistan] and the Republic of Tajikistan, Kabul, dated 8 Sonbola 1372 [30 August 1993]

At the invitation of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the ISA, esteemed Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, paid an official visit to Afghanistan from 6 to 8 Sonbola, 1372, corresponding to 28 to 30 August, 1993. During his stay esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the ISA, and esteemed Imamali Rakhmonov, the president of Tajikistan, held a series of talks in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding.

The heads of states of the two countries, during an exchange of views on matters of interest, in confirmation of the joint statement dated 13 August 1993 of the foreign affairs ministers of both countries, paying attention to positive historical relations between the peoples of both countries, paying respect to the principle of security on common borders and the expression of goodwill toward the development of all-round relations between the ISA and the Republic of Tajikistan, with emphasis on complete readiness of both sides for the purpose of establishing peace (?at the border), support for the principles of freedom and [words indistinct] toward the expansion of friendly relations—the heads of states declare to their people:

The Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan develop their relations of good-neighborliness, friendship, and mutual cooperation on the basis of respect to the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, noninterference in each others internal affairs, and [word indistinct] to the principle of peaceful coexistence.

Both sides believe that the path of talks with political forces of various tendencies, is the determining way of solving the problems of Tajikistan.

Both sides consider the role of the United Nations in this regard positive and welcome the efforts of that organization.

Both sides deemed it necessary to form a trilateral commission between Afghanistan and Tajikistan and the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] in connection with the voluntary return of Tajik refugees in Afghanistan to their country, and [words indistinct].

Both sides emphasize [the need to] form a commission, including the representatives of governments of the two countries in order to assess the border questions in the earliest possible time and [words indistinct]

Both sides, with full confidence, state that the establishment of peace and stability on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border is in the interest of people of both countries and helps toward the consolidation of mutual trust.

Both sides state to seriously observe the principle of not resorting to force and threat of force, resorting to hostile actions against each other, and to solve any questions of dispute through negotiations.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan agree to take joint measures toward campaigning against international terrorism, the smuggling of weapons, [word indistinct], and narcotics and their illegal use.

Both sides express readiness to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic, education, and cultural spheres. To this end, both sides deemed it necessary to form a joint commission of Afghanistan-Tajikistan cooperation in the near future.

Both sides declare full support for the UN Charter, international declarations on human rights, and to observe the norms which have been laid in this regard on an international level, and to make efforts toward the maintenance and implementation of these articles for the purpose of [words indistinct] and mutual cooperation.

Esteemed Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, extended an invitation to esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the ISA, to pay an official and friendly visit to the Republic of Tajikistan at a suitable time. The invitation was gratefully accepted, and the date of this visit will be determined through diplomatic channels.

Both sides are completely confident that the friendly visit by Imamali Rakhmanov to Kabul, the capital of the ISA, had positively influenced the consolidation and expansion of friendly relations between the two countries and will (?open new borders) in relations between two independent and neighboring countries.

This statement in Dari and Tajik texts will be published in the capitals of both countries simultaneously and will be broadcast by the mass media.

Five Russian Soldiers Handed Over to Tajikistan

LD3008170693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], this morning handed over five Russian soldiers who had been captured some time ago by the country's border forces.

According to a report by a BIA correspondent, the hand-over of these troops took place in a ceremony at the presidential palace which was attended by esteemed Engineer Qotboddin Helal, first deputy prime minister,

esteemed Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala, some high-ranking state and military officials, and a guest delegation.

The esteemed president of the ISA spoke about the friendly relations between the two countries, called the hand-over of the five persons an indication of the goodwill of the state and people of Afghanistan, and expressed a desire for further strengthening friendly relations with the Republic of Tajikistan.

Reciprocally, Tajik President Imamali Rakhmanov [as heard] expressed appreciation for this good, Islamic, and humanitarian action by the ISA and emphasised the consolidation of friendly and fraternal relations between the two states.

India

Dixit Rules Out U.S. Mediation on Kashmir

BK2808093493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, now in Washington, has ruled out the possibility of U.S. mediation on Kashmir, and said that India will welcome America's good offices to lessen tension in the region. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Dixit expressed his satisfaction over the discussions he had with the officials of the Clinton administration on the Indo-U.S. relations. He said that the two-day talks have helped in promoting the process of building durable, working, and frank relations between the two nations.

Referring to the Indo-Russian rocket engine deal, the foreign secretary said that India, Russia, and the United States will have more discussions on the issue.

Replying to a question on the nuclear nonproliferation, Mr. Dixit said that the Clinton administration is evolving a comprehensive policy on the subject and New Delhi will consider it if and when it is made public. The foreign secretary voiced India's concern over the difficulty in transferring of technology and wanted the United States to modify its rules to make available to countries like India, which has a sound track record.

Spokesman on U.S. Sanctions Against China, Pakistan

BK2708150793 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1437 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Statement by the External Affairs Ministry Spokesman]

[Text] In response to a query on whether there has been a delay in sending Indian troops to Somalia, the official spokesman stated that there had been no delay. The troops movement and transport arrangements had to be sorted out with the United Nations. We have been in close touch with them. Those arrangements have been put in place. The first advance party leaves on 28 August, 1993. After that batches will regularly move out every week until the full brigade strength has been reached.

In response to another query on the sanctions imposed by the United States against China and Pakistan, he said that we are aware of the sales of the missile parts and missile technology from China to Pakistan. We are also aware of Pakistan's missile development programme. As far as the sanctions are concerned, we have no further comment because it pertains to those three countries.

Commentary Notes Impact of U.S. Sanctions on Pakistan

BK2808121893 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Commentary by Harish N. Das]

[Text] Imposing of U.S. sanctions on China and Pakistan for a period of two years in retaliation of the transfer of Chinese M-11 missile component and technology to Pakistan is a halfhearted attempt and also taken belatedly.

Ever since 1989, India has been drawing the attention of the world community, specifically the USA, to the threat perception against India but the USA has been sidetracking Indian interests. On the contrary, Washington imposed sanctions against Indian Space Research Organization and Russian counterpart on the supply of cryogenic engine technology, which scientists anywhere know cryogenic engine cannot be used for carrying warheads.

The time of the sanctions is also very significant as Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Dixit, is on visit to Washington, and Pakistani foreign secretary is scheduled to visit Washington next week. It is like a signal to India that the USA would not let India go by her program to develop missile technology, what may come.

Before we start discussing implications of the sanctions, let us understand what these sanctions are. The sanctions imposed against Pakistan and China belong to category two of the Missile Technology Control Regime. These sanctions are imposed if the transfer involves certain items which contribute to missile development. These sanctions include denial of new export licenses for two years for items like rocket propellant, mechanism of separating rocket (?stages), rocket motor cases, insulations and nozzles, instrumentation and navigation equipment, flight control system, avionic equipment such as radar and global positioning system, launch support equipment, certain type of computer and softwares, and testing facilities.

It may show some concern of the U.S. Administration about Pakistan's nuclear program, but the impact of these sanctions against Pakistan would be minimal. The very fact that both China and Pakistan have not given direct and specific reply to the transfer of M-11 missiles capable of carrying more than 1,100 pounds nuclear warheads up to 300 miles is a proof itself that apart from

transfer of technology, China has supplied M-11 missiles. India had supplied this information to the USA as back as in 1988-89 and Washington's own intelligence agency—the CIA—had also informed the U.S. Administration about it, where is the point for the USA to ascertain now whether Pakistan after acquisition of sensitive Chinese technology is capable of manufacturing the M-11 missile with a range to hit the Indian cities. (Ms. Len Davis), under secretary of state for international security should have taken stricter punitive action against Beijing and Islamabad than the one it took on Wednesday [25 August]. According to Jane's Intelligence Review, reports of Sino-Pakistani missile cooperation first came in 1987-88 focussing on negotiations over the sale of M-11 ballistic missiles. Chinese assistance in developing Pakistan's 400-kilometer Hatf-2 surface-to-surface missile was confirmed in 1989. In April 1990, the USA report confirmed Chinese program to transfer M-11 missiles to Pakistan by February 1991 and the first delivery of Transporter Erector Launchers, TELS, for M-11 had begun in February 1991.

The sanctions would at least dampen Islamabad's efforts to improve already troubled relations with Washington, but it would not make Pakistan suffer economically from the two- to three-year freeze on the U.S. aid. It would have only psychological impact, as it came during the election period.

U.S. Accused of 'Double Standard' on Terrorism

BK2708074793 Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Aug 93 p 4

[Article by Harish N. Dass]

[Text] The U.S. decision not to declare Pakistan a country supporting international terrorism makes a mockery of its professed concern about international terrorism. Hitting Iraq for the alleged plan to kill former U.S. President George Bush, and on the other side, refusing to even list Pakistan among countries sponsoring state terrorism, disregarding all evidence, shows American doublestandards in this matter.

It is strange that, in spite of the incontrovertible evidence that has been given by India to the USA time and again, clearly establishing, Pakistani sponsorship of terrorism across the border, America should give a clean chit to Pakistan. There are statements of the U.S. government itself on this subject based on its own information confirming Pakistan's guilt. It is obvious that this decision is based not on objective facts, but on other policy considerations.

In the words of Mr. McCurry, the U.S. State Department's report on international terrorism in 1992 did say that there had been credible reports of official Pakistani support for Kashmiri militants who undertake acts of terrorism in Indian Kashmir as well as some reports of support to Sikh militants engaged in terrorism in Punjab. But Mr. McCurry could not indicate why action under the U.S. law had not been taken on the basis of the findings of the U.S. government's own agencies.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher made a statement that the move was dropped as Pakistan had taken steps that appeared to have responded to the U.S. concerns about Pakistan's support for terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab, and that following changes in Pakistani military leadership, especially ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] chief General Javid Nasir, the new people have been more cooperative over the past six months.

Going by the realities on the ground, terrorist activities in Kashmir have increased considerably with the sneaking in of Pak-trained terrorists, including volunteers of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. With the deployment of the army on Indo-Pak border and LOC [Line of Control] in Kashmir, scores of terrorists have been killed on the border while crossing over from Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Also many have been captured along with most modern and sophisticated weapons. One wonders what kind of assurances were given to the Clinton administration by tbe new Pakistani military leadership and how such assurances, which have no basis, have carried conviction with Mr. Christopher.

The U.S. Secretary of State has avoided reply to the specific question about the precise proof that Pakistan gave to the Clinton administration that it has stopped violating the international law by not fomenting terrorism in Kashmir. Mr. Christopher cannnot be unaware that the Pakistani ISI, for all practical purposes, dictates Pakistan's foreign and defence policies and have extensively indulged in the export of terrorism. The U.S. decision will only embolden the ISI to continue doing what it has been doing.

If the removal of the ISI chief is the concrete proof given to the U.S., then Pakistan has made a fool of the Clinton administration too. The ISI chief was removed by the president of Pakistan because he was Mr. Nawaz Sharif's man and not because he was transporting terrorism. Again however important ISI chief Gen. Javid Nasir was, he could not be a law unto himself and functioned on behalf of the troika that rules Pakistan. What seems to have weighed with the USA are the current political crisis leading to tbe military rule in Pakistan and the fear that branding Pakistan a terrorist state may send the latter into a closer relationship with China and Iran.

The Indian security forces will have to be given a free hand to end militancy in Kashmir. We all know that several thousand Afghans and mercenaries from some other Islamic countries who fought in the Afghanistan war have been enlisted by the ISI and some organisations in Pakistan to swell the ranks of the militants in Kashmir. Several of these foreign nationals have been killed or arrested in encounters with the Indian Security Forces.

Many of those arrested have spoken of Pakistan's role in smuggling them into Kashmir after training and giving them arms. Between 4,000 to 5,000 armed militants are waiting to infiltrate from the other side of the LOC. In addition Pak military officers are also waiting to infiltrate into the Kashmir Valley to assess the possibilities of

joint operation with Kashmir militants in the event of Indo-Pak hostilities. In case there is no open war, Pakistani security officials infiltrated into India would help strengthen the Pak army's direct grip over the militant outfits in the Valley which have of late been reeling under strong blows of the Indian Security Forces.

Since India's independence, India has tried to build friendly relations with the USA, but Washington has all through focussed its attention on Pakistan. There has been a definite setback in Indo-U.S. relations after the visit of Mr. John Mallot and his statement on the so-called violation of human rights in Kashmir. America is prone to twist its standards about terrorism depending on the countries involved.

Rao Rules Out Breaking Ties With Russia Over Rocket Deal

BK2708162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has reiterated government's determination to prevent misuse of religion for electoral purposes. Addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi today, he said the bills to separate religion from politics will be recast shortly and that a special session of parliament might be convened to pass the bill. He said the government will go in for a constitutional amendment if it musters the required support, otherwise it will opt for an amendment of the Representation of People Act to achieve the same objective.

On cryogenic rocket technology, he said it is not in the interest of the country to break its ties with Russia on the issue. India is the only developing country which has not buckled under pressure of a superpower and it has shown its courage by refusing to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty].

Before the meeting began, the secretary of the Congress-I party in parliament, Mr. (Vilas Puttamwar), announced that there were 60 members who wanted to speak at the meeting, but in pursuance of the well-established conventions, only the leader of the parliamentary party addressed the members today as it is the valedictory meeting. The party leader agreed to the suggestion to extend the meeting tomorrow to facilitate the members to speak.

Congress-I Party Meeting Reaffirms Faith in Rao

BK2908033593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The Congress-I Parliamentary Party in a meeting held last night reaffirmed its full faith in the leadership of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The meeting, which lasted about 45 minutes, called for intensive efforts to face the challenge posed by the communal forces. The meeting was addressed by the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, besides Mr. Arjun Singh, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, and Mr. R.K. Dhawan. Emphasizing the need for maintaining discipline within the party, Mr. Narasimha Rao told the members that both democracy and discipline are essential for the success of the party. Mr. Rao was confident about the poll prospects of the party in the forthcoming assembly elections in the four formally BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-ruled states.

Mr. Arjun Singh told the meeting that the fight is between the democratic and fascist forces, and the future of the country will be decided in the elections in the four states. He said in spite of the vow taken at the Tirupati session, the divisive forces were able to demolish the structure at Ayodhya. Mr. Arjun Singh said that the crucial question will be selection of candidates for the election to four states and the task should be done only by the elected poll panel of the party at the state and central level.

Mr. Rajesh Pilot endorsed Mr. Arjun Singh's view that the economic measures taken by the government have now started yielding results. Mr. R.K. Dhawan also spoke about the challenge of communalism and hoped that all the secular forces will be able to overcome the threat.

The party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chrandrakar, who briefed newsmen, said it was one of the best and smooth meetings of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party.

President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir Extended

BK2708034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Rajya Sabha has approved unanimously by voice vote the statutory resolution seeking the continuance of the central rule in Jammu and Kashmir for another six months from the third of next month. The state has been under president's rule since July 1990. The resolution was approved yesterday after a discussion on an official resolution on extension of president's rule in state.

Media Report on Violence in Kashmir 27-30 Aug

Curfew Implemented in Srinagar

BK2708112193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, curfew was abruptly clamped in large areas of Srinagar, including Khanyar, Nauhatta, and Maharaj today to obstruct continued and ever-increasing protests and processions against atrocities perpetrated by Indian forces. KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] reports tension has of late increased and anger among people erupted as a result of fresh severe oppressive acts of the Indian occupation forces to terrify the population at large and weaken the ongoing freedom movement in particular. Latest reports say 10

more people, including six Indian troops, have been killed and over 50 people injured seriously in a number of clashes at various places.

Troops Kill 12, Arrest 21

BK2908113793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian occupation forces currently besieging the entire held valley, martyred more than a dozen people and arrested 21 others during their search operation. In Uri alone, six youths were martyred in clashes with the Indian troops. During curfew and siege and search operations, the residents were put to torture and women molested. According to another report, three people were killed and about 12 others injured in Bahro Badgam due to firing by occupation troops. The Indian soldiers dressed in plain clothes also opened fire without any provocation at various villages in the area.

Eight Militants Killed 30 Aug

BK3008125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, eight hard-core militants, including a self-styled area commander of a militant outfit, were killed in an encounter with the security forces near Sangrama in Baramula District. Six AK-56 rifles were recovered from the killed militants. Six other militants were arrested by the security forces.

Army Foils 'Major Infiltration Attempt'

BK3008144893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Army has foiled a major infiltration attempt in Jammu and Kashmir. A Defense Ministry release says the attempt was made yesterday near (Tingrai) on the Line of Control. In the ensuing encounter, 14 militants were killed and a huge quantity of arms were recovered. Another attempt by militants to infiltrate the (Zaodudi) range in Kupwara sector was also foiled. The Army killed two militants and recovered six AK-56 rifles and ammunition in the showdown across (Hadial) ridge.

Security Forces Reportedly Kill 11 in Punjab

7 Killed in 27 Aug Incident

BK2708042093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] In Punjab, seven militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces at (Hafabad) village near Ludhiana last night. According to police, suspicious car-borne militants were chased by the police and in the encounter that followed all the occupants of the car were killed.

4 Killed 30 Aug; Weapons Recovered

BK3008091293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] In Punjab, four militants were killed in two separate encounters with security forces last night in Jagraon area of Ludhiana District. According to an official spokesman, two militants were killed near village Gurusar, while the other two were killed near village Supan Kalan. Three rifles, a pistol, a motorcycle, and many incriminating documents were recovered from them.

Militants Blow Up Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh

BK2808075093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] A UNI report from Hyderabad says that Naxalites [Maoist militants] blew up the Raghavapuram railway station in Karimganj District in Andhra Pradesh early today. The general manager of the South-Central Railway told the news agency that no casualty has been reported as the staff of the railway station was asked to come out of the building before the blast. The official said that train movement on the busy Kazipet-Balharshah section was disrupted. This is the second such incident this week. The Naxalites had blasted a railway station in Nizamabad District on Wednesday [25 August].

One Injured in Bombay Blast; Further on Delhi Blast

BK3008164893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1630 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 30 (AFP)—Bombs exploded Monday [30 August] in the Indian cities of New Delhi and Bombay, but caused only minor damage, police and the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

A crude bomb went off in a toilet at the Delhi High Court causing minor damage and no casualties, police said here.

Police said a leaflet was found at the blast site claiming responsibility for the Gujjar Commando Force, a previously-unknown group believed to be championing the rights of members of the lowly Gujjar community.

All cases were adjourned for the day and the downtown court building was placed out of bounds to civilians as police and sniffer dogs searched the place.

Police said the Gujjar Commando Force had carried out at least one previous bombing but the attack had not been reported previously.

In Bombay, a civilian was injured when a bomb exploded in the western Indian city's main railway station late Monday evening, triggering panic among hundreds of commuters in the complex, PTI said.

The device went off in a carriage of a passenger train, but caused little damage, it added.

At least 300 people died in a series of bomb explosions on March 12 in Bombay, India's commercial hub.

Iran

Velayati Condemns Armenian Aggression in Azerbaijan

LD3008160293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, sent a letter to Mr. Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, calling for decisiveness on the part of the UN in the instance of the aggression of Armenian forces against Azerbaijan republic's soil.

In the letter Mr. Velayati recounts Iran's efforts to peacefully resolve the conflict. He adds: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports all efforts aimed at establishing peace and stability in the Caucasus. The recent attacks by the Armenian forces on Azeri soil have, however, marred the prospects of reconciliation and the establishment of peace and created a difficult situation for the countries in the region.

As she has repeatedly declared, the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns any form of aggression by Armenian forces against Azeri soil and voices her concern about the continuation of those attacks that could further fan the flames of war.

Further on in the letter, our country's foreign minister calls on the UN to take speedy, decisive, and effective action to force the aggressor to accept a cease-fire and return to internationally recognized borders.

President Meets With Afghan Hezb-e Wahdat Leader

LD2908113393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Ayatollah Fazel, the leader of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], met and conferred with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. In the meeting, the president described the peace and stability which have been established in Afghanistan after a long period of jihad and struggle against occupiers as hope-inspiring and pleasing.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the evil conspiracies hatched by the enemies of Islam for the creation of dissension and discord among Muslim nations. He stressed the need to strengthen and consolidate unity and solidarity between all Afghanistan's jihadi groups in order to foil those conspiracies, as well as the need for all parties to make efforts to repair the damage caused by war in that country.

The leader of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, for his part, presented a report about the latest developments in his country and expressed the hope that the Islamic State of Afghanistan would continue to benefit from the humanitarian assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other friendly countries. He also said he hoped Afghanistan would make strides along the path of development and reconstruction by avoiding discord and dissension.

Musavi-Ardebili's Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2708142793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Friday prayers sermons delivered by Friday Imam Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili in Tehran on 27 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We revolted; we struggled. Thanks be to the God of both worlds, our revolution attained victory and blossomed. We were happy that our revolution was in the first place an Islamic one; it was not a workers' revolution, not a petty bourgeoisie revolution and I do not know what. It was not sectarian. That revolution was an Islamic one and attained victory, thanks be to the God of both worlds. Therefore, we can implement the Koran [piyadeh konim]. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to the anti-revolutionary," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to the hypocrites"]

In that revolution we gave our blood, we gave martyrs, we gave prisoners of war, we gave our lives. We worked sincerely. We offered God whatever we possessed. God willing, the Koran and Islam will be implemented. God willing, all good things, all good luck, all happiness, all perfection, and all goodness will be attained, and all corruption, bullying, caprice, carnality, egoism, personality cults, despotism, and all that is bad, God willing, will go away. That was our intention when we revolted.

I do not wish to say whether Islam has been implemented or not. A decade has passed from our revolution and we are in the second decade. We used to say continuously that, God willing, we will revolt and those results will be attained, God willing gradually; but we were not waiting for a miracle. That is correct, but gradually, we promised ourselves, we promised our nation, we promised the world, we promised the oppressed: I would like to know how far we have progressed, how many of our promises came true, how much you are satisfied with the situation? Let me ask you: Will we have achieved the objective of the revolution if, God willing, and with the help of God our cities prosper, all the war destruction is made good, the problems of our economy are resolved, we overcome inflation, high prices are abolished; all our hospitals, our schools, and our universities prosper; capital starts to flow; and all devastation is made good? Was the revolution saying just that or did we revolt to

become what we have become? If we say that, we are mistaken. After all that, we become just like Japan.

If today in a miraculous way we become a Japan, can we claim that we have reached our objectives? It was not the objective of our revolution to become like some countries who have a strong and sound economy, a strong currency, and a high standard of living; even though one must admit that these are good things. Instead we aimed to implement the Koran. The Koran does not say that I provide you with a formula for becoming a Japan, America, or Europe. These are not the objectives of the revolution. The objectives of the revolution were far superior to these. Of course, we do seek these things, but only in addition to other things. We do want prosperous streets, orderly hospitals, good universities, and a sound economy. Of course, we want these things; but the supreme objective of the revolution cannot be summarized with these. In other words, we seek what is right, righteous, expedient, and finally what brings about spiritual prosperity. [passage omitted]

I want to ask a question: Is our future direction toward attaining what we have been seeking? Are we heading that way? If our economy is made right, the problem of high prices is resolved, and our cities prosper, will we say: Thank God, this is enough, we do not want anything more? What we really seek is the solution to this puzzle and to this contradiction. We must attain what men seek according to what is in their thoughts, minds, and spiritual judgements. Islam must of course agree with these, while at the same time they should fall within the realm of the revolution's objectives. I do not know whether we can achieve all these under the present circumstances. Are we in need of a new sense of direction?

As I said before, I have a chest cold today, and I cannot speak for too long. God willing, I will continue this debate in another opportunity in the future. [passage omitted] The will to escort martyrdom and self-denial has enabled us today to be the owner of a revolution, the kind of revolution, which is Islamic and in which we can take pride. It is unique in the world. [crowd chants "God is great"]

It is no wonder that we see so many positive achievements in our revolution. You know how many enemies this revolution has and what they do and what they are planning against it. Yet, I have heard that in the National Majles of Turkey—secular Turkey—a mosque has been built for the ministers and deputies to give prayers. A mosque in the National Assembly of Turkey?

I have also heard that Turkish President Demirel goes to the Friday prayer; Uzal also used to go. It is a long time that they have resigned from God's religion and Koran. Yet, they go to Friday prayers. These are the result of the Islamic revolution.

It was the Islamic revolution that brought about that situation in Turkey—when Aziz Nesin [famous secular Turkish writer] and those like him decided to speak against the God and the Prophet, their platform was set on fire. [reference to recent events in Sivas in Turkey]

Despite all the enmity which America has started, this very year in Istanbul, on the day of 'Ashura [most sacred mourning day for Shiites] 60,000 people—Sunni, Shiite, and 'Alawaite—participated in the 'Ashura rites. Four television channels in Turkey screened the 'Ashura day rites on two or three occasions.

What does that imply ? Who has attracted those Sunnis? Before the victory of the revolution, there was only one Shiite mosque in Istanbul while today there are 17 Shiite mosques in Istanbul. The numbers are still growing. These are all the consequences of the Iranian revolution. [passage omitted]

In Sudan the Majles speaker says that America will have to wait indefinitely before Sudan may extend a begging hand. America says that we are terrorists. [sentence as heard] We also will publish a list of terrorst states: first America, second Israel, and third Serbia. Countries like Sudan were meek [mostaz'af]. Until yesterday, they did not even dare to spell the letter A of the word America.

It was the revolution, the Iranian revolution and its export, that revived Islam and Islamic thought in the world and brought about the present situation in Egypt; it has brought Algeria, Morocco, and Somalia to their present situation. How did revolution do so? By the blessing of the blood of its martyrs. [passage omitted]

Rear Admiral Condemns U.S. 'Smear Campaigns'

LD2908161893 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani said on Sunday [29 August] that Washington tries to portray the Persian Gulf region as a trouble spot in order to put pressure on U.S. rivals and to justify the transfer of 30,000 American troops from the Philippines to the Persian Gulf.

Speaking to IRNA here Shamkhani said, "America tries to reach its ill-fated ends through striving to create enmity between Islamic Republic of Iran, the only country opposed to the U.S. presence in the region, and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member states."

He added that the U.S. tries to reach its aims by resorting to smear campaigns regarding the military capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which he characterized as "defensive."

"To ensure its survival into the 21st century, the U.S. is determined to put pressure on its rivals, i.e. Japan and Europe," he said.

He added that the only way the U.S. could survive in the coming century would be through controlling the oil-rich regions of the world.

The Western media, especially those supported by the U.S., have made baseless accusations about Iran's aim in pursuing nuclear capability. Iran has remained a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and its nuclear facilities have been inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The said agency has certified repeatedly that Iran pursues nuclear technology only for peaceful ends.

Commentary Reviews U.S.-Pakistani Relations

LD2908212093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A senior official of the Pakistani Foreign Office, Mr. Shariyar-Khan has left for the United States to hold discussions on the issues which have emerged in the two country's ties. The significance of the visit is that the United States has recently announced economic sanctions against Pakistan using M-11 missiles, which Pakistan has received from China, as a pretext for pressurizing Pakistan.

If we look at Mr. Shahriyar-Khan's visit by taking in to view the situation being faced by the interim government, plus the internal situation of that country, which to an extent is unclear because of the forthcoming elections, we can assume that Shariyar-Khan will have important and intensive talks with the American officials.

Pakistan-U.S. ties have been facing tension for quite some time and the U.S. threat that it will include Pakistan in the list of the terrorist states can be discerned in the same context. Despite this, it seems that the recent differences between the two countries, which have been intensified after Pakistan received M11 missiles from China, are the main factor in turning the U.S.- Pakistan ties bleak.

Certain Pakistani observers do not consider the continued pressure of the United States on Pakistan as something accidental or the result of different political interpretations. They believe that the United States in its anti-Islamic strategy is concerned over the Islamic factions coming to power in Pakistan, and that on the same basis it has imposed economic sanctions on that country on the approach parliamentary elections. Besides, the Indo-American closeness has also declined Pakistan's strategic position in the eyes of the United States.

The international and regional conditions have changed in a way that the United States does feel the need to expand its ties with Pakistan. It should be borne in mind, however, that the United States will not be inclined to put Pakistan in a situation where it has to make a difficult choice. The possibility that in the event of greater pressure on Pakistan, the ground for Pakistan's wide-scale cooperation with China and other regional countries which do not accept the interventionist policy of the United States will be prepared, is the deterrent which will force the United States to move cautiously in its ties with Pakistan.

On the other hand, because of various reasons Pakistan has inclined to have friendly ties with the United States in order to evert the American inclination toward India, a major regional rival of Pakistan, or at least create such conditions under which the United States will adopt a balanced policy toward both India and Pakistan.

Therefore, it can be assumed that Pakistan does not want to spoil its ties with the United States to an extent where its national interests and security are effected.

Mr. Shariyar-Khan's visit is taking place apparently to reconstruct ties which are dismantling due to Pak-China missile cooperation. It is too early to say how far Shariyar-Khan's visit to the United States can improve the ties between the two countries.

Anyhow, there is no doubt that Pakistan expects the United States to decrease its pressure on the country, so that the interim government should hold the parliamentary elections in the peaceful climate and the situation may return to normal in that country, and whether the United States will respond positively to that is apparently doubtful.

U.S. Policy Criticized; Influence Abroad Viewed

NC3008124393 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Aug 93 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Autumn of U.S. Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Autumn winds are blowing over the White House. The fall has set in around U.S. foreign policy and reflects the thinking that has gripped the minds of the directors of the U.S. State Department.

U.S. publications are drawing analogies between Clinton and Roosevelt, a sickly person who had a great opportunity to peddle the United States internationally in World War II.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES wrote: "Today, most experts conclude that the White House policy was characterized by confusion, ambiguity, and the presence of many aides, who spent most of their time trying to predict or speculate on the President's viewpoints during the Roosevelt Presidency. Thus, they sought to mask the ambivalence of the President."

The defeat of Clinton's foreign policy on Bosnia-Herzegovina is an example of this confusion. The views of the U.S. press have not been expressed out of sympathy for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but out of fear of the weakening role of the U.S. leadership in the world.

A president who grapples with crises and incidents should send a clear message, but this did not appear to be

the case when Clinton sent the U.S. secretary of state to Europe on a feeble consultation mission.

If, from the vantage point of the U.S. press, "Clinton's defeat is to be construed as a problem for the image of world leadership," it is, in the opinion of free people everywhere, an immutable reality and the fate of countries whose leaderships are waning.

With its latest moves, the United States, which has suffered much chagrin in its efforts to lobby for Europe's support for its policies, intends to present a report against Iran to convince the Europeans.

The U.S. State Department spokesman stated: "We hope to step up EC pressure on Iran in the commercial field." U.S. efforts in this respect have not been impotent without reason. In the view of the EC leaders, accepting U.S. diplomacy could be considered as delegating the traditional decisionmaking role on international issues to Washington.

Following its unification, emerging from the fortress of World War II memorials, Germany has had a lot to say. France is pursuing its interests in the Middle East with sensitivity. The EC members no longer want the key to their reciprocal relations with Middle East countries to be in Clinton's pocket.

The pages of the report that the United States wants to complete and present to the next session of the EC foreign ministers conference will be lifeless and dry, like the leaves in the fast-approaching autumn of White House foreign policy.

Sunni, Shiite Kurdish Prayer Leaders End Meeting

LD3008123393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The sixth gathering of the Sunni and Shiite Friday prayers leaders of Kurdish areas, after discussing regional problems for two days in social, cultural, and organizational commissions, ended their meeting with the publication of a communique. During the meeting, which was held during Government Week in the central office of the Great Islamic Center of the West Country in Sanandaj, the participants stressed the need to expand cultural activities in the region.

In the meeting's final communique, the Friday prayers leaders of Kurdish areas, while renewing their allegiance with the guardian of the cause of Muslims announced that the reactivation of the Assembly for Affinity Among Islamic Sects by the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, is a significant step in establishing Islamic unity.

Pakistan

U.S. Sanctions Over Missile Sale Draw Reaction

Anti-American Sentiments Fanned

BK2808025393 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 27 Aug 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] The imposition of sanctions by US against Pakistan and China over the M-11 missile sale issue are being considered to wax the prevailing anti-American and profundamantalist feelings.

Cross sections of society growingly find the anti-American and pro-fundamentalist slogans 'appealing'. They also deem fundamantalism the ony alternative to the poorly performing policians who are bracketed as "liberal". These sections are expected to react to the Wednesday sanctions in the form of more hatred not only for US but also the major political leaders at home.

Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif the two leading figures of Pakistan would be facing a negative response in the coming polls from these sections of society.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad who switched on his party's election campaign with a roaring anti-American stance and a decided leaning for fundamentalism is expacted to emerge stronger than ever before.

Three main events in Pakistan's recent history have been of unprecedented importance in moulding mass psyche in Pakistan more against the American approach towards this country than all the past events, including the US reluctance to save Pakistan from division in its 1971 war with India in spite of the Washington's guarantees for defence which all Pakistanis expected would be realised in the shape of much publicised "7th fleet".

The recent events of president and prime minister's stepping down. Moin Qureshi's takeover as caretaker prime minister, and his economic package, and Ghulam Ishaq Khan's recent claim that he had to quit due to mounting pressure from United States, came as yet another proof for the man in the street that America was interfering in the affairs of the country at the highest level. Moin Qureshi's appointment has been widely publicised as an American-dictate and the package of 19th August is being received by almost all sections of the country's population as a 'venture' in line with the two previous "dictates".

Coming down harsher on the price hike, which is being called as "Moin's package", Qazi Hussain Ahmad has been claiming in his party electioneering that the caretakers economic policies were not criticised by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif because "both are pro- American and they don't want to annoy their masters."

Qazi is being viewed to be consistent, bold and most vocal Pakistani leader in his anti-American starce. On the contary, no other Pakistani politican is rated to be of his calibre by political career on the issue. This factor, as

observers say, would be decisive in turning a wider section of the youth at home as pro- Qazi.

The JI [Jamaat-i-Islami] chief has announced to launch an anti- price hike campaign in all the four provinces, which though not expected to figure heavily but is being considered to appear as the most important event before voters go to polling booths [sentence as published].

Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour of ANP [Awami National Party] took the lead from Qazi and went on a token hunger strike Thursday evening against the sky-rocketeering prices.

PMAP [Pashtonkhwa Milli Awami Party] has also announced observing black day against price hike Saturday.

Though leaders of ANP and PMAP are not boisterous enough to match the anti-American stance of JI chief but they do not hesitate in linking the price rise to "an imported prime minister's misdoings".

Of all the factors, the one which remains to be thoroughly analysed is the active support to anti-American stance of Jammat-I- Islami from the ever rising number of college-going youth. During the Gulf war, though a section of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leadership had come out on the streets to voice concern against "Nawaz government's pro-American policies," but it was Qazi Hussain Ahmad who put up a consistent pressure agaisnt US attacks on Iraq. Though his stance against the "desert storm" did not match his crusade agianst "Godless Soviet Union" he emerged to be a leader of far higher coherence in his approach, vis-a-vis "anti-Muslim US policy."

But he is not the only religious politician to be so vocal against "American designs towards the Muslim world". Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, a JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] Senator has also been consistent in his anti-US stand. Along with Qazi Hussain, Hafiz happens to be equally vocal against "American policy towards Bosnian Muslims". Both have been raising calls on US to stop favouring the Serb aggressors against Muslims in Bosnia. The youth in Pakistan is finding only the religious politicians standing firm against what is being widely propagated as "anti-Muslim, anti-Pakistan US policies". This is being considered to be a dangerous turn in politics at home, by antifundamentalist observers, who argue that fundamentalism appears to emerge as the only alternative to the [word indistinct] stance of moderate and liberal politicians and parties.

On the other hand majority of youth with pro-Bhutto leanings is already of the belief that Z.A. Bhutto was hanged on the instigation of America. Supporters of late military dictator, Gen Zia, don't seem to reject the idea that the "fundamentalist general" could have been killed by "American agents". Nawaz's supporters are given to believe that the former prime minister had been forced to bow out under US pressure. This is also being taken as American aversion to democracy in Pakistan. Most Pakistanis believe that the recent US threat to include Pakistan in the list of "countries exporting terrorism" was in fact in line with American policy of "making Pakistan subservient to US dictates". Similarly a good part of Pakistani youth, convinced that "Kashmir is Pakistan's integral part" is pained to find that India is favoured against Pakistan on Kashmir issue. Feeling being discriminated against, this part of the youth tends to become more and more active on the issue in all major towns of the country, where most demonstrations on Kashmir are organised and led by religious politicians with Qazi Hussain Ahmad figuring most prominently.

Observers consider it safe to conclude that the Wednesday sanctions against Pakistan would go a long way towards earning JI both short and long-term gains. They don't deem it a far-fetched idea that JI would become more and more popular in the backdrop of these sanctions and would become more and more confident after a long period, during which religious parties were regularly rejected by Pakistani voters and broad sections of the youth.

Sanctions 'Unacceptable, Galling'

BK2808090593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[Text] The United States' decision to slam sanctions against Pakistan and China for alleged disregard of the Missile Technology Control Regime has caused profound dismay in Pakistan. In China, the reaction is scarcely less disappointing. What exact damage these sanctions are going to cause to either of the two countries is not material. What is certainly a matter of infinite greater significance is the political-moral quality of this undeniably punitive action.

Pakistan and the United States have a long history of friendly association; the two have been allies. Pakistan has stood by the United States as a 100 percent ally in the nearly half a century of cold war with the Soviets. With China, too, the United States has had a fairly friendly relationship ever since President Nixon decided to be friends. Imposing sanctions against an otherwise friendly nation is the case of taking an extreme measure to hurt the pride of it.

What makes the timing of sanctions particularly unacceptable and galling is the fact that the decision is not backed by adequate evidence. Within the U.S. Government, there is a very significant section which is not convinced that the evidence Washington claims to possess is sufficient to justify any punitive action. China has repeatedly and vehemently denied that it has supplied Pakistan any missiles or missile technology which would amount to an infringement of the Missile Technology Control Regime, that is, the MTCR. For its part, Pakistan has placed all its cards on the table. The missiles acquired by Pakistan from China just do not fall within the definition of the missiles prohibited by the MTCR.

The United States should know it as well as any other power that the Chinese leadership is made of dauntlessly upright and honest human material. They do not tell lies, because they don't have to. And about Pakistan, who knows better than a friend which has been as close to it [China] as the United States with access to almost everything. Pakistan has no secrets and few from the United States, and hardly any in the defense field with the United States has been Pakistan's closest ally, associate, and partner [sentence as herard]. This is hardly the way to return the compliments.

After due consideration which was a process of considerable anguish, the Government of Pakistan decided to lodge a formal protest with the Government of the United States. Prime Minister Moin Qureshi felt constrained to issue a formal statement in which he described the American sanctions against Pakistan and China as unilateral, arbitrary, unjust, and also misinformed. It is regrettable that Washington should have taken an extreme step in the absence of any tenable evidence. Prime Minister Qureshi has firmly pointed out that the missiles Pakistan received over a year ago are well within the parameters of the MTCR. And he has also explained that these missiles were acquired when it became imperative because it was confirmed that India had developed and begun to stockpile missiles which could pose very serious dangers to the defenses of this country. At that stage, that is about as long as a year ago, the United States had then expressed its appreciation of Pakistan's need. The United States Government had also expressed satisfaction over Pakistan's candid attitude on the matter.

Pakistan feels it has a right to expect Washington to be fair and equitable and to play a positive role for peace and security in South Asia. After all, the United States could not possibly be unaware of India's burgeoning defense capability, both in the conventional and nuclear weapons. It should also be within the full knowledge of the Government of the United States that India has a tremendous defense industry, while Pakistan has to import most of its defense needs. With financial constraints on the one hand and the United States' own ban on defense exports to Pakistan, Islamabad is confronted with a rather uncomfortable situation and there is no sign of any moderation on the part of India. In such an environment it should not be difficult to have a sense of sympathy for Pakistan rather than act in a manner so obviously inconsistent with the spirit of friendship.

Double Standard With India Seen

BK2708163193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has criticized the United States decision to impose sanctions against Pakistan and China. In an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, he said it is India which has initiated an arms race in South Asia, first by producing nuclear weapons in 1974, and then by producing long-range missiles which are a threat to peace and security of all countries in the region. Mr. Nawaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's decision of pursuing a peaceful nuclear program, but underlined that Pakistan will not accept unilateral, discriminatory and one-sided pressure which are based on double-standard since they exempt India from any responsibility from missile and nuclear proliferation in the region. He said that China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan, and Pakistan will continue to strengthen its friendship with that country.

Delegations Meet Sharif Over Sanctions

BK2808160793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Many delegations called on Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group President Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Lahore today. Delegations comprising lawyers, intellectuals, politicians, and scientists expressed their sentiments on the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Administration against Pakistan and China.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that if returned to power, he will keep national interests closer to his heart and no decisions will be made against the national interest.

Sharif To 'Sort' Issue With Clinton

BK3008105793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 29 Aug 93 p 8

[Text] Lahore (PPI)—Nawaz Sharif on Saturday said after coming into power, he would try to sort out differences with US and establish traditional relations with it.

He was talking to a delegation of senior lawyers, intellectuals, political scientists and retired army officers who called on him at his residence.

The delegation members registered their resentment over the imposition of trade sanctions on Pakistan and China by the Clinton administration.

Responding to the delegation's feelings, Nawaz said that no decision would be taken against national interest. He said he would try to sort these matters with the Clinton administration after coming into powers.

Qureshi Comments

BK2808143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said the United States should exert its influence for settlement of the Kashmir issue, where violation of human rights threatens peace in the region. Mr. Moin Qureshi, who was on a short visit to Balochistan, was addressing a news conference at Quetta Airport prior to his departure for Islamabad this evening.

Replying to a question about U.S. sanctions against Pakistan, the prime minister said:

[Begin Qureshi recording] The United States has already, as you know, imposed the Pressler Amendment. I think the Pressler Amendment is extremely unfair. It treats Pakistan very unjustly. It singles out Pakistan, and I believe it is very reprehensible that this action was taken against Pakistan. There must be an evenhanded approach on this matter. However, we have to recognize that it is in Pakistan's interest to try to settle some of these problems with the United States. It is not in our interest to have major issues with the United States. So, we stand ready to talk with the United States on any matter concerning this region. We would particularly like the United States to involve itself in the problem of Kashmir because we believe that Kashmir can be a flashpoint of a conflict in this area. And, we believe that the grave violations of human rights in Kashmir threaten peace in this region, and, therefore, we would like the United States to exert its influence. When the United States wants, it can exert a great deal of influence in a good cause, and, I believe Kashmir and peace in this region is a good cause. [end recording].

Further on Qureshi Remarks

BK2808155493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has said Pakistan wants to include the United States in efforts to put pressure on India for reaching a just solution of the Kashmir issue and ending its human right violations there. Addressing a press conference in Quetta today, he said Pakistan desires to maintain the best of relations with the United States and it is ready to talk on any matter with a view to achieving this objective. He said however that the sanctions imposed against Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment are unjustifiable and unwarranted. This amendment singles out Pakistan for punitive steps.

Answering a question about the impact of the latest U.S. sanctions against Pakistan, Moin Qureshi said these will not affect us much because the sanctions have already been imposed under the Pressler Amendment.

On Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, Moin Qureshi said this program will continue unobstructed, and pressure from no one will be accepted in this connection.

Answering a question about declaring ineligible from contesting elections those who have not paid back their loans, the prime minister said we have prepared a list of those who have taken big loans. Now it is the duty of the Election Commission, the judiciary and the people to take notice of these defaulters.

Referring to his government's economic package, Moin Qureshi said these measures were necessary to rehabilitate the country's economy because it was in very bad shape. He said however that prices of only a few commodities, including wheat, petroleum products, gas and the electricity surcharge, had been increased, and a large-scale price rise is unwarranted. He said he has directed a review of the price rises and directed that all possible steps be taken to prevent unnecessary price rises.

Islamist Chief Criticizes Sanctions

BK2808024793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Qazi Hussain Ahmad, leader of the Islamic Front, has said that the U.S. sanctions against Pakistan at this stage are primarily aimed at exerting pressure on the interim government to obstruct the path of Islamic forces in the coming elections. Talking to various delegations in Lahore yesterday, he said that the people of the country will thwart the U.S. designs. He said that the U.S. decision should open the eyes of the U.S. lobby in Pakistan.

Seminar on Iran Stresses Resistance to Western Values

BK2808152893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] The president of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has called upon the countries of South Asia to work together to strengthen cultural ties and promote harmony in the region. He said this in a message to a regional seminar on cultural relations between Iran and the subcontinent which opened in Islamabad today. The three-day seminar is being attended by delegates from five countries. They are Pakistan, Iran, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Iranian president's message was read out on the occasion, which emphasized promoting relations between Pakistan and Iran for the good of the two countries. Delegates from Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka also spoke on the occasion. They were of the view that there is a marked difference between the eastern and the western culture and values. The West has always tried to impose its values on the people of the East, which must be resisted at all costs. We should not allow any one to erode our identity. In this connection, they referred to the conspiracies against the people of Bosnia, Kashmir, Palestine and Afghanistan.

In his presidential address, professor Ghulam Sarwar emphasized the need for promoting Persian in the region. This, he said, will promote better understanding among the people of the area.

Professor Dr. Shabani talked to our correspondent about the objectives of the seminar: [Begin Shabani recording] This is why that we thought for having a better conditions. [sentence as heard] For knowing each other, we need to have certain seminars here and to combine the other countries of the subcontinent to be united with each and other and to talk about our, at least, historical heritage and to be aware of what has been gone for the

centuries and for what we have right now and what is the real identity of the people living in this area. [end recording]

Imam Among 6 Killed in Shooting at Lahore Mosque

BK3108084393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Six persons, including imam-i-masjid [mosque's prayer leader], were killed and 15 injured as a result of firing by an unidentified masked man at a mosque, Darul Ahsan, at Rajgarh in Lahore this morning. The namazis [worshippers] were offering du'a [supplications] after Fajr [early morning] prayer. The injured persons were rushed to the Mayo Hospital immediately. The police have registered the case against the unknown gunman and started investigations. The local administration has made all arrangements to maintain peace in the area to avoid untoward incident.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Punjab health minister, Professor Dr. Gardezi, visited the Mayo Hospital this morning to inquire into the health of the injured persons. Talking to the Radio Pakistan representative, he said the government would provide every medical and financial help to the injured persons. The government will also give financial assistance to the breadwinners as well as the injured persons in accordance with the prescribed law. The minister said the government would take every possible measure to arrest the culprit.

Sri Lanka

'Accomplice' in Premadasa, Gandhi Murders Arrested

BK3008114093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The crime detection bureau has arrested Nixon alias Sugan alias Charles, a hard-core LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] (?fighter), who is now known as a major accomplice in the assassination of both President Premadasa of Sri Lanka and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. These sources yesterday disclosed that Nixon is known to have been in charge of (?Kayts island) off the Jaffna Peninsula upto the later half of 1990. He is also known to have been in Colombo as a close associate of Yogaratnam Yogi [LTTE's political wing leader] during the period the LTTE was having talks with the Premadasa government in Colombo prior to June 1990. He has admitted to have been associated with Dhanu and Sivarasan [assassins of Rajiv Gandhi] and several other LTTE men who were in Madras to plan the 21 May 1991 killing of Rajiv Gandhi. He even acted as Pottu Amman's driver while the team had [words indistinct]. He returned to Colombo and renewed his friendship with Sivakumaraswamy Raviraj alias Ravi, one of the ten most wanted LTTE men for recent killings in Colombo. Ravi was a close associate of Kulaweerasingham Weerakumar who is the Premadasa assassin.

Ten 'Terrorists' Killed by Security Forces

BK2808115993 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] At least 10 terrorists and an Army officer were killed in a daylong air, sea, and land operation by the security forces against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at Mandagal in the northwest coast of Jaffna. The military spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that the area around the former Sea Tiger base, which is now under the control of the security forces has been cleared following reports of an LTTE buildup.

Meanwhile, the Army yesterday shot down a canard being spread by certain foreign media and announced that it had recruited the required number of new soldiers from among 20,000 applicants in only three days. A military spokesman said that another 2,000 have been selected and were on a waiting list. He said that contrary to foreign media reports there has been a tremendous reponse to the advertisement calling for soldiers among the youths, although the stipulated minimum age eligible to join the Army was 17 years, there were large number of 16-year-olds who had applied to join the Army.

Saudi Minister Visits Colombo Islamic Center

LD2908200893 Riyadh SPA in English 1916 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Colombo, Aug 29, SPA—Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Turki, the Saudi minister of Islamic affairs, endowments, propagation and guidance visited on Sunday [29 August] the Islamic centre in Colombo where he was greeted by Mohammed Hanifa, the speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament and chairman of the centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Hanifa lauded the great efforts being made by custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to serve Islam and Muslims and expressed satisfaction over existing relations between his country and the Kingdom.

Hanifa also praised the tremendous success scored by the recent conference of Asian Muslims which was attended by Dr. al-Turki.

Dr. al-Turki, in a statement upon return to Riyadh on Sunday, expressed pride over the generous support being rendered by the government of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz for Muslims in various fields.

He said what has been rendered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to assist Muslim brothers, Islamic organizations and establishments worldwide is unprecedented.

Minister al-Turki, who participated in the functions of the first Islamic conference for Asian nations which was concluded in Colombo on Saturday, expressed satisfaction over the positive outcome of the Islamic gathering and said the participants took important resolutions regarding the social, cultural, educational and welfare aspects of the Islamic communities in Asian countries.

Export Earnings Record 'Considerable' Increase

BK3008121493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Sri Lanka's export earnings recorded a considerable increase for the first three months of this year. A senior official of the Export Development Board told LANKAPUVATH that the traditional exports earned 5.8 billion rupees with tea being the main contributor. Tea brought in 4.4 billion rupees, while coconut brought in 968 million rupees and rubber 523 million rupees in foreign exchange. Textiles outbid all others in the nontraditional sectŏr, earning 12 billion rupees in foreign exchange. The fisheries, gems, jewelry and other export crops also recorded impressive growth rate, the overall growth rate being 25 percent.

Volume Up By 17 Percent

BK2908114593 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The volume of exports from Sri Lanka has recorded an increase of 17 percent in real terms as against exports in 1991, according to available statistics. The nontraditional exports from Sri Lanka have recorded a growth rate of 29 percent. This was announced by the minister of export development, Raja Samaranayake, at the inauguration of a seminar on "How To Promote Exports to Japan." It was organized by the Japan-Sri Lanka Technical and Cultural Association. A concerted effort is being made by the government under the liberalization program to attract more foreign investments to Sri Lanka to promote exports. A comprehensive package of reforms such as flexibility in exchange rate management, liberalization of trade and payment, removal of administrative control, rationalization of fiscal and financial procedures, and grants of liberal tax incentives have been introduced by the government to boost the economy. Further measures will be taken to liberalize the trade and payment system, said the minister.

Garment Exports Increase 12 Percent

BK2708113793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Local garment and textile exports have recorded a 12 percent increase in the first three months of this year. A senior official for the Sri Lanka Export Development Board told LANKAPUVATH that Sri Lanka's garment and textile exports have earned the country 12,888 million rupees for this period. They continue to be Sri Lanka's number one foreign exchange earners. Meanwhile, official sources told LANKAPUVATH that intensive promotional campaigns carried out in so far untapped new markets in countries like Saudi Arabia and Australia during the past few years have borne fruitful results.